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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT



Gov. Ned Lamont announces the arrival of 426,000 at-home COVID-19 tests and N95 masks at the state commodities warehouse in New Britain on Friday for distribution to cities and towns. **CLOE POISSON PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS READY TO GO

More than 400,000 delivered to Connecticut; will start to be handed out early next week

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

The more than 400,000 at-home COVID-19 tests that finally arrived in Connecticut early Friday will begin to be handed out to state residents early next week.

Surrounded by boxes containing the 426,000 tests at a state warehouse in New Britain, Gov. Ned Lamont urged community leaders to prioritize vulnerable residents, including those with symptoms, homeless people and front-line workers. More tests were expected to arrive through the weekend in advance of free distribution in municipalities next week.

The tests arrived hours after Lamont held a Thursday evening news conference and admitted that a deal for Connecticut



Pallets loaded with rapid COVID-19 tests sit ready for distribution at the state commodities warehouse in New Britain on Friday.

Turn to Tests, Page 2

TOP10
STORIES OF 2021

Surge dashes early '21 hopes

Optimism that built through much of year dampened by omicron

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Connecticut entered 2021 amid a large COVID-19 wave, with hopes it would be the state's last.

Now, Connecticut ends 2021 amid a large COVID-19 wave, with hopes it will be the state's last.

Altogether, the numbers were ugly: 324,482 cases and 3,165 deaths in 2021 alone, even as more than three million state residents received at least one dose of a newly available vaccine.

Whereas it looked mid-year as though Connecticut had conquered COVID-19, the calendar ends with high levels of infections, illness and uncertainty. With the omicron variant spreading rapidly, the state has experienced record case counts and test positivity rates, leaving hospitals packed and health care workers worn down.

"It's never been this hard," Sherri Dayton, a nurse and union leader at Backus Hospital in Norwich, said recently. "It's always been hard, and we've always had a staffing shortage as long as I can remember, but it's never been this bad."

The year began with Connecticut midway through a devastating COVID-19 surge that killed several thousand residents and hospitalized many more. Business faced capacity limits, masks were required in public spaces, and some schools resorted to remote learning.

Slowly, the situation improved. Cases began to slow and local hospitals emptied. Restrictions were lifted. At a May 27 press conference, Gov. Ned Lamont struck a hopeful tone as Dr. Scott Gottlieb, one of his go-to pandemic advisors, declared an "interim victory" over COVID-19.

It helped that Connecticut was by then one of America's most vaccinated states, with all adults eligible for a shot and more than half having already gotten at least one.

With its weather warm and its population protected, Connecticut's coronavirus numbers continued to improve. On July 1, the state reported only 35 new COVID-19 cases. The next week hospitalizations hit a new low, with only 25 patients receiving treatment, and the state recorded just a single coronavirus-linked death over a seven-day period.

However, a relatively COVID-free summer wasn't to be. The delta variant emerged in July and became dominant within weeks, causing a surge in cases that frustrated residents who'd thought the pandemic was over.

Students participate in a demonstration Friday to say goodbye to 2021 in Lahore, Pakistan. Around the world, sorrow, fear and exhaustion greet 2022 as the pandemic persists. **K.M. CHAUDARY/AP**

Turn to Virus, Page 2

Subdued celebrations welcome 2022

As virus keeps filling hospitals, world clings to hope amid exhaustion

By John Leicester and Nick Perry
Associated Press

PARIS — Sorrow for the dead and dying, fear of more infections to come and hopes for an end to the coronavirus pandemic were — again — the bittersweet cocktail with which the world said good riddance to 2021 and ushered in 2022.

New Year's Eve, which used to be celebrated globally with a free-spirited wildness, felt instead like a case of déjà vu, with the fast-spreading omicron variant again filling hospitals.

At the La Timone hospital in the southern French city of Marseille, Dr. Fouad Bouzana could only sigh Friday when asked what 2022 might bring.

"Big question," he said. "It's starting to become exhausting, because the waves come one after another."

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Students participate in a demonstration Friday to say goodbye to 2021 in Lahore, Pakistan. Around the world, sorrow, fear and exhaustion greet 2022 as the pandemic persists. **K.M. CHAUDARY/AP**

Step into the new year with state's 'First Day Hikes'

Connecticut parks, DEEP plan 14 events for New Year's Day

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

For a COVID-safe way to ring in the new year, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is again offering First Day Hikes at over a

dozen state parks.

"It's been a tough few weeks," said DEEP spokesperson Meghan Bard. "COVID changed a lot of holiday plans. A walk outside is a way to combat the holiday blues."

First Day Hikes is part of a national initiative overseen by the National Association of State Park Directors. The DEEP is working with various "Friends of ..." park groups groups, as well as local parks organizations such as the

Connecticut Forest and Park Association, to provide both guided and self-guided hikes through state land.

Connecticut has been offering the First Day Hikes for around a decade. Some local groups have been organizing New Year's Day hikes for much longer than that.

"We put it out there and see who wants to participate," said Kristen Bellantuono, who coordinates the First Day Hikes for DEEP.

There are hikes at 14 different parks around the state. There is no registration required.

The hikes can vary considerably, Bellantuono said. "We have some hikes for true beginners. Others are more advanced. Some are along the shoreline, while some are scenic woodland hikes. Each park is unique in its own way. There's something for everyone."

At noon on Jan. 1, for example, the Friends of Chatfield Hollow in

Killingworth will hold Costume Dog Parade, followed at 1 p.m. by two separate hiking opportunities, one guided and one self-directed.

Some individual hikes attract hundreds of hikers. Bellantuono said one she gave at Sessions Woods a couple of years ago drew 150-200 people. "Hammonasset probably gets the most," she said.

The First Day Hikes for 2021

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McDonald's workers, union activists, get their jobs back

A federal labor judge ruled that a McDonald's restaurant owner used pandemic layoffs as a "scheme" to permanently dump four workers who were active in unionizing efforts. **Page 5**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Tests

from Page 1

to buy millions of at-home tests to hand out to residents fell apart when the state was outbid. By Friday morning, the state had found new suppliers, including Aetna parent CVS Health, to provide the test kits that will be handed out free to state residents and used in schools.

“We got ourselves to the front of the line,” Lamont said, noting that the state is dealing with a “Gold Rush” mentality in competition for the rapid test kits. Until more test kits arrive in coming days and weeks, tests should go to people who truly need them, he said.

“If you’re showing symptoms, get a test kit. If you’re going to be going into a school on Monday, do public safety work or forward facing public workers who feel like they may have something going on, get a test,” Lamont said. “Otherwise, you can hold off a little bit. We’re going to have a lot more tests in the next couple of weeks so that we can prioritize the people that are most in need.”

Lamont said the state is still working to sign new agreements to replace the tests he thought the state had purchased. Earlier this week, the state announced it had a deal to buy 3 million COVID-19 at-home rapid tests and 6 million N95 masks to help curb the spread of the virus. Two million of the tests were to go to schools. The deal, valued at more than \$18 million, fell apart when the state was outbid.

Lamont and administration officials said they were told the tests were on the way from California, when in fact Connecticut was the loser in a deal that was “misrepresented” to state officials. It was not immediately clear who was getting the tests instead.

The development — after Lamont said the tests were on the way all week — stunned municipalities across Connecticut who were planning to hand out

“If you’re showing symptoms, get a test kit. If you’re going to be going into a school on Monday, do public safety work or forward facing public workers who feel like they may have something going on, get a test. Otherwise, you can hold off a little bit. We’re going to have a lot more tests in the next couple of weeks.” — Gov. Ned Lamont



A Connecticut National Guardsman drives a fork lift to move a pallet of N95 masks at the state commodities warehouse in New Britain on Friday. Gov. Ned Lamont announced the arrival of the masks and 426,000 home COVID-19 tests for distribution to cities and towns in a news conference at the warehouse. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

the free tests on Thursday and Friday. The Lamont administration had said repeatedly this week that the delay was due to shipping and supply chain problems.

“The entire state of Connecticut was misled by the governor’s office on Monday at a time when information and data is critical. At this point, we need to trust, but verify, everything that comes out of that office,” House Republican leader Vincent Candelora said Thursday afternoon.

Connecticut is now in the midst of one of the most severe surges of the nearly two-year old pandemic. There are nearly 1,200 people hospitalized due to COVID-19 and the state’s seven-day positivity rate stands at 14%. On Thursday, the state reported 7,700 new

cases, the most of any day during the pandemic.

No statewide COVID-19 numbers were released Friday, but in the Yale New Haven Health System, Chief Executive Officer Marna Borgstrom said hospitals are struggling with a rising caseload of patients very ill with the virus.

Borgstrom said that the system’s five hospitals had 513 Covid-positive patients hospitalized as of Friday morning.

This is a “fivefold increase” from the just over 100 patients the system had hospitalized at the beginning of the month, Borgstrom said, speaking during a Friday morning Zoom meeting.

Of the 513 hospitalized patients, 76 were in the ICU and 49 were on ventilators, YNHH officials said. Nine-

teen of those patients are children and five children were in the ICU Friday, officials said.

“There are people who are very, very ill,” said Dr. Thomas Balcezak, chief clinical officer at Yale New Haven Health.

But Balcezak also noted that, as the demand across the state for COVID-19 testing increases, the YNHH system had to hire off-duty police officers at all of the YNHH testing sites “because of unruly behavior” on the part of some people who sought care there.

“This is an uptick in some unfortunate behaviors,” Balcezak said.

Now, all testing by YNHH will be done by appointment only and through the system’s website, he said.

Officials also stressed that routine Covid testing will not be done at emergency rooms.

Balcezak and Borgstrom stressed what they said was the need to show civility and kindness toward hospital personnel. The hospital system is not allowing visitors, except with certain exceptions,

“We are in this together, all of us have a part to play in this pandemic,” Balcezak said.

He said “we are going to see more challenges before it gets better.”

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Information from Connecticut Mirror is included in this story.

Virus

from Page 1

As case counts rose, Connecticut entered its “anger” stage of pandemic grief. Residents fed up with vaccine requirements and mask mandates in schools held defiant protests. Others — those who had been vaccinated and taken all recommended precautions — grew resentful that their unvaccinated neighbors were prolonging the crisis.

But the numbers eventually began to dip again, and it seemed once more than Connecticut was putting the pandemic behind it. The arrival of vaccine boosters further lifted hopes, even as experts warned about a possible winter spike to come.

As it turned out, the winter has been worse than even the most pessimistic local experts predicted. Cases were rising rapidly even before the arrival of the omicron variant, which has now taken the state’s numbers to unprecedented levels. The year ended this week with Connecticut reporting a 20% positivity rate Thursday, setting a record for a third straight day.

The good news for Connecticut is that COVID-19 vaccines (with boosters) remain effective in staving off serious infection, according to experts, so the state’s high vaccine rate should continue to help limit hospitalizations and deaths moving forward. If the omicron variant proves to have less severe symptoms than other strains, as is it reported appears to be the case, Connecticut’s outlook could improve once this current spike subsides.

The third year of the pandemic, however, is on the way.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

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LOTTERY
Friday, Dec. 31

PLAY3 DAY 1 8 6 WB: 4
PLAY4 DAY 7 3 7 2 WB: 1

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

THURSDAY’S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

5 7 2 WB: 7

PLAY4 NIGHT

1 1 8 5 WB: 0

CASH 5

8 20 29 32 35

LUCKY FOR LIFE

7 15 19 26 32 LB: 9

Tuesday’s est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.8 million

Tonight’s est. Powerball jackpot: \$500 million

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FROM PAGE ONE

New Year

from Page 1

The pandemic game-changer of 2021 — vaccinations — continued apace, with some people getting jabs while others stocked up on drinks and treats for subdued feasting. Some milestones were met: Pakistan said it had fully vaccinated 70 million of its 220 million people this year and Britain said it met its goal of offering a vaccine booster shot to all adults by Friday.

In Russia, President Vladimir Putin mourned the dead, praised Russians for their strength in difficult times and soberly warned that the pandemic “isn’t retreating yet.” Russia’s virus task force has reported 308,860 COVID-19 deaths but its state statistics agency says the death toll has been more than double that.

“I would like to express words of sincere support to all those who lost their dear ones,” Putin said in a televised address broadcast just before midnight.

Elsewhere, the venue that many chose for New Year’s celebrations was the same place they became overly familiarly with during lockdowns: their homes. Because of omicron’s virulence, cities canceled traditional New Year’s Eve concerts and fireworks displays to avoid drawing large crowds.

Pope Francis also canceled his New Year’s Eve tradition of visiting the life-size manger set up in St. Peter’s Square, again to avoid a crowd. In an unusual move for Francis, the 85-year-old pontiff donned a surgical mask for a Vespers service of prayer and hymns Friday evening. But he also delivered a homily standing and unmasked.

Face masks again became mandatory Friday on the streets of Paris, a rule widely ignored among afternoon crowds that thronged the sunbathed Champs-Elysees, where a planned fireworks display was canceled. With nearly 50% of Paris-region intensive care beds filled by COVID-19 patients, hospitals were ordered to postpone nonessential surgeries.

Yet boisterous New Year’s Eve celebrations kicked off in the Serbian capital of Belgrade where, unlike elsewhere in Europe, mass gatherings were allowed despite fears of the omicron variant. Large crowds gathered Friday evening for outdoor concerts, fireworks and a light show, and hotels and bars were packed. One medical expert predicted that Serbia will see thousands of new COVID-19 infections after the holidays.

More than 300,000 visitors were expected in Las Vegas for events including a New Year’s Eve



Drones create a lion in the sky above the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich to bring in the New Year on Saturday in London. **ROB PINNEY/GETTY**



A couple kisses on the Champs-Elysees Avenue in Paris early on New Year’s Day. **MARTIN BUREAU/GETTY-AFP**

fireworks show on the Strip that was canceled last year due to the pandemic.

In Japan, people thronged temples and shrines, most of them wearing masks. Some shrugged off the virus, dining and drinking in downtown Tokyo and flocking to

shops, celebrating being freed from recent virus restrictions.

In South Korea’s capital, Seoul, the annual New Year’s Eve bell-ringing ceremony was canceled for the second straight year due to a surge in cases, and a pre-recorded video was instead

broadcast online and on television.

South Korean authorities also closed many beaches and other tourist attractions along the east coast, which usually swarm with people hoping to catch the year’s first sunrise, and extended tough distancing rules for another two

weeks.

In India, millions of people rang in the new year from their homes, with nighttime curfews and other restrictions taking the fizz out of celebrations in New Delhi, Mumbai and other large cities. Authorities have imposed restrictions to keep revelers away from restaurants, hotels, beaches and bars amid a surge in cases fueled by omicron.

Many Indonesians were also forgoing their usual festivities for a quieter evening at home, after the government banned many New Year’s Eve celebrations.

In Hong Kong, a New Year’s Eve concert featuring local celebrities including boy band Mirror was the first big New Year’s Eve event since 2018, after events were canceled in 2019 due to political strife and last year because of the pandemic.

In mainland China, the Shanghai government canceled an annual light show along the Huangpu River that usually draws hundreds of thousands of spectators. There were no plans for public festivities in Beijing, where popular temples have been closed or had limited access since mid-December.

In the Philippines, a typhoon two weeks ago wiped out basic necessities for tens of thousands of people ahead of New Year’s Eve. More than 400 were killed by Typhoon Rai and at least 82 remain missing.

Hikes

from Page 1

were nearly all self-guided due to COVID concerns. Parks did not close during the early, pre-vaccine period of the COVID pandemic, though some new rules were instituted that limited capacity. One of the responsibilities of DEEP staff and others running the hikes will be keeping the hiking groups safely distanced, Bard said.

Bellantuono recommends dressing appropriately when hiking, especially during cold weather. Other tips can be found at the American Hiking Society website at americanhiking.org/first-day-hikes. Regarding COVID concerns, earlier this year the DEEP issued a “New Normal Health & Safety Guidelines” booklet, which can be found at portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/COVID-19/Health_Safety_Flyer_NN_Final.pdf. The guidelines, which cover a range of outdoor activities besides hiking, state that unvaccinated participants should wear masks outdoors when social distancing is not possible.

Here is a list of DEEP state parks offering special First Day Hike events on Jan. 1, 2022, with descriptions drawn from DEEP listings:

- Auerfarm State Park Scenic Reserve, Bloomfield. “Look for signs of winter wildlife while hiking to the top of the old Auerfarm orchard.” 10 a.m.
- Bluff Point State Park, Groton. “An approximately 3.5 mile loop hike (about 1 hour and 45 minutes).” 11 a.m.
- Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth. A costume dog parade at noon, followed by hikes at 1 p.m.
- Gillette Castle State Park, East Haddam. All-day self-guided hiking opportunities, “with a trail map describing ‘curious structures’ and historical sites on the expansive grounds of Gillette Castle.”
- Goodwin State Forest, Hampton. Self-guided “nature-themed scavenger hunt” with “simple prizes.” All day.
- Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, Groton. A “volunteer in period dress” leads visitors through Fort Griswold. There’s also an on-site cell phone tour. Noon.



A new bridge stretches along the trails of the 184-acre Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam. **BOB MACDONNELL/HARTFORD COURANT**

- Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison. An “easy walk” on the Cedar Island trail, “to identify trees using buds and bark and searching for seals.” 1 p.m.
- Kettletown State Park, Southbury. The 1.8-mile Miller Trail, featuring a log bridge and views of Lake Zoar. 1 p.m.
- Mansfield Hollow State Park, Chaplin. Two hikes offered: a 2.2 mile hike on easy to moderate terrain and a 4.5 mile hike which is moderate to challenging. Both hikes leave at 11 a.m. from the recreation field parking lot on Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield.
- Machimoodus/Sunrise State Park, Moodus. “Several experienced trail leaders ready to lead some hikes.” 1 p.m.
- Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown. A two-mile intermediate level hike “from the tranquility of Mount Misery brook, up the actual Mountain of Misery, to

- one of Connecticut’s most historic Summit views, then back down an old fire tower road to a cutoff that will lead us to our Friend’s New Year’s Campfire Celebration.” 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Peoples State Forest, Barkhamsted. Due to the weather, the First Day Hike & Sky’s The Limit event at People’s State Forest has been rescheduled to Jan. 8. Hikes led by Friends of American Legion & Peoples State Forest will take place at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Sky’s the Limit program starts at 12:30 p.m. Meet at Mathies Grove Pavilion.
- Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area, Burlington. A “strenuous” five mile on the Tunxis Trail. 10 a.m.
- Sherwood Island State Park, Westport. Guided 2-2.5 mile hike. Noon.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.



Winter settles in along Chatfield Hollow Brook. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

WORLD & NATION

BETTY WHITE 1922-2021

TV icon was a beloved fixture for over 60 years

By Frazier Moore
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Betty White, whose saucy, up-for-anything charm made her a television mainstay for more than 60 years, whether as a man-crazy TV hostess on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” or the loopy housemate on “The Golden Girls,” has died. She was 99.

White would have turned 100 on Jan. 17.

She launched her TV career in daytime talk shows when the medium was still in its infancy and endured well into the age of cable and streaming. Her combination of sweetness and edginess gave life to a roster of quirky characters in shows from the sitcom “Life With Elizabeth” in the early 1950s to oddball Rose Nylund in “The Golden Girls” in the ‘80s to “Boston Legal,” which ran from 2004 to 2008.

But it was in 2010 that White’s stardom erupted as never before.

In a Snickers commercial that premiered during that year’s Super Bowl telecast, she impersonated an energy-sapped dude getting tackled during a sandlot football game.

“Mike, you’re playing like Betty White out there,” jeered one of his chums. White, flat on the ground and covered in mud, fired back, “That’s not what your girlfriend said!”

That helped spark a Facebook campaign called “Betty White to Host SNL (please?)!,” whose half-million fans led to her co-hosting “Saturday Night Live” in a much-watched, watch-hailed edition that Mother’s Day weekend. The appearance won her a seventh Emmy award.

A month later, cable’s TV Land premiered “Hot In Cleveland,” the network’s first original scripted series, which starred Valerie Bertinelli, Jane Leeves and Wendie Malick as three past-their-prime show-biz veterans who move to Ohio. They move into a home being looked after by an elderly widow — a character, played by White, who was meant to appear only in the pilot episode.

But White stole the show, and the salty Elka Ostrovsky became a key part of the series, an immediate hit. She was voted the Entertainer of the Year by members of The Associated Press.

“It’s ridiculous,” White said of the honor. “They haven’t caught on to me, and I hope they never do.”

By then, White had not only become the hippest star around, but also a role model for how to grow old joyously.

“Don’t try to be young,” she told the AP. “Just open your mind. Stay interested in stuff. There are so many things I won’t live long enough to find out about, but I’m still curious about them.”

White almost wasn’t cast as “Happy Homemaker” Sue Ann Nivens in “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” in 1973. She and her husband, Allen Ludden, were close friends of Moore and Moore’s then-husband, producer Grant Tinker. It was feared that if White failed on the show, which already was a huge hit, it would be embarrassing for all four. But CBS casting head Ethel Winant declared White the logical choice.

Originally planned as a one-shot appearance, the role of Sue Ann (which humorously foreshadowed Martha Stewart) lasted until Moore ended the series in 1977. The role brought her two Emmys as supporting



Betty White’s television career, headlined by her roles on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” and “The Golden Girls,” spanned more than 60 years. White died Friday at 99. CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP 2009

actress in a comedy series.

In 1985, White starred on NBC with Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan and Estelle Getty in “The Golden Girls.” Its cast of mature actresses, playing single women in Miami retirement, presented a gamble in a youth-conscious industry. But it proved a solid hit and lasted until 1992.

White played Rose, a gentle, dim widow who managed to misinterpret most situations. She drove her roommates crazy with off-the-wall tales of childhood in fictional St. Olaf, Minnesota. The role won

her another Emmy.

White began her television career as a \$50-a-week sidekick to a local Los Angeles TV personality in 1949. She was hired for a local daytime show starring Al Jarvis, the best-known disc jockey in Los Angeles.

White proved to be a natural for the new medium. She was bright, pretty and likable, with a dimpled, eye-crinkling smile. Jarvis was replaced by actor Eddie Albert, and when he went to Europe for the film “Roman Holiday,” she headed the show.

With the glib tongue and

quick responses nurtured in the Jarvis years, she was a welcome guest on “I’ve Got a Secret,” “To Tell the Truth,” “What’s My Line” and other game shows — all the way up to the 2008 “Million Dollar Password,” which revived the game once hosted by Ludden, whom she had met when a contestant on his original “Password.”

That was in 1961, and the next year, while touring in summer theater during television’s off season, she starred with Ludden in the comedy “Critic’s Choice.” The marriage lasted from 1963 until his death in 1981.



A coffin with the body of retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu is carried Friday into St. George’s Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa. Tutu died Sunday at 90. TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/AP

‘Moral giant’ Tutu honored by mourners in South Africa

By Andrew Meldrum
Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — South Africans from all corners of retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s “rainbow nation” filed past his plain pine casket by the hundreds on Friday to pay their respects to his life of activism for equality for all races, creeds and sexual orientations.

“He was a moral giant. He was a moral and spiritual giant loved and revered for fighting for equality for all people,” said the Rev. Michael Lapsley, on the steps of the historic St. George’s Cathedral after Tutu’s coffin was carried in amid music, incense and prayers.

Anglican clergy — women and men, Black and white, young and old — lined the street to honor the cortège carrying Tutu’s body to the church. Members of the Tutu family accompanied the casket into the cathedral.

People began filing through the lofty cathedral to light candles and view the simple coffin with rope handles which Tutu had said he wanted to avoid any

ostentation or lavish expenditures.

More than 2,000 people visited the cathedral on the first day of viewing on Thursday and on Friday the line stretched for nearly a mile. A requiem mass for Tutu will be held Saturday before he is cremated and his remains placed in a columbarium in the cathedral.

“His work did not stop with the end of apartheid,” Lapsley said, in reference to South Africa’s regime of racial oppression which Tutu prominently opposed and which ended in 1994 when South Africa held a democratic election.

“Archbishop Tutu bravely championed the equality of all people. He transformed the church by bringing women into the clergy. He championed the LGBTQ community, for whom he is a hero all over the world,” Lapsley also said.

One of the first women priests ordained by Tutu, the Rev. Wilma Jakobsen, said Tutu radically changed South Africa’s Anglican church.

“The face of the church has changed. It has women priests and women in posi-

tions of leadership. It has people of all colors. Our church welcomes LGBTQ people. That’s all thanks to the leadership of Archbishop Tutu,” said Jakobson, who served as Tutu’s personal chaplain when he was archbishop.

After the viewing Friday, Tutu’s body remained alone overnight in the cathedral, “a place that he loved,” according to a statement from Archbishop of Cape Town Thabo Makgoba.

The cathedral, the Anglican church’s oldest in southern Africa, dating to 1847, shows the changes encouraged by Tutu. The Crypt Memory and Witness Center has public education programs to encourage healing and social justice.

With her gray hair pulled back in a ponytail tinged with purple, and wearing a brightly colored rainbow mask, the Rev. Maria Claassen said she was paying homage to Tutu.

“He was a very humble man but to sit in the same room with him, you could feel the strength of his presence, of his convictions,” said Claassen, an Anglican priest in Cape Town’s Durbanville area.

ANALYSIS

GOP looking ahead to big ‘22 even while challenges persist

By Steve Peoples
and Will Weissert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Not long ago, the Republican Party was hitting bottom.

The GOP had lost the presidency and House in November 2020 and would soon squander its Senate majority early in 2021 — then watch with horror as supporters of then-President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol last Jan. 6.

What a difference a year makes.

A resurgent GOP is now poised to reclaim one or both congressional chambers in 2022, while retaining its lock on dozens of state legislatures and governor’s offices. Republican confidence is fueled by President Joe Biden’s underwhelming poll numbers, a Democratic economic and social agenda that’s faltering, intensifying concerns about inflation, and deepening frustration with the pandemic.

At its most basic level, though, GOP optimism is born of the same political headwinds that have shaped U.S. politics for decades. The party that controls the White House has a tremendous disadvantage in the first election of a new presidency.

“We’re going to have a hell of a year,” said Florida Sen. Rick Scott, who leads the national GOP’s Senate campaign arm.

Republicans dominated last fall’s elections across Virginia, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, even in areas Biden easily carried in 2020.

Democratic strategists acknowledge being concerned about a wave of Democratic congressional retirements, Republican-controlled state legislatures reshaping House districts, a struggle to enact Biden’s leading



Some GOP operatives fear that former President Donald Trump’s false comments about election fraud could depress voter turnout among party loyalists in 2022. BEN GRAY/AP

campaign promises, and a disengaged political base.

Yet Republicans face their own significant challenges. A Supreme Court decision expected next summer that could dramatically erode or dismantle abortion rights could galvanize Democratic supporters.

But Trump himself is an even bigger wild card.

The former president has waged war against fellow Republicans whom he deems insufficiently loyal. Some GOP operatives also fear that Trump’s lies about election fraud could depress turnout among is loyalists.

“We just have to limit the damage that he’s causing,” Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a member of the Republican Governors Association’s executive board.

“If we have big battles in primaries, either we’re going to nominate people who are unelectable in purple states or swing districts, or we’re going to beat up our incumbents so bad that they lose the general election,” added Hogan.

Republican-controlled legislatures have aided the Republicans’ potential House fortunes by drawing new congressional districts

that are even more favorable to the party.

Many Republican legislatures have also enacted laws making it more difficult to vote in response to Trump’s false claims of voter fraud. That’s expected to disproportionately affect Democratic-leaning African Americans and Latinos.

Representing the Democratic Party’s most reliable base of support, many Black voters are also frustrated by the party’s inability to enact policing overhauls in response to the outcry that followed George Floyd’s murder over a year ago.

Some Democrats insist there is cause for optimism. No issue may be bigger than a looming Supreme Court decision on abortion rights. The conservative-leaning court will weigh whether to weaken or even overturn the decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

Democrats are hopeful that a major shift on the politically charged case would help rally suburban women — voters who lifted the party during the 2018 midterms. “We are the tortoise and they are the hare,” said New York Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, head of the House Democratic campaign arm.



More than 1,400 U.S. flights on the East Coast were scrubbed on Friday. Above, travelers in line in Chicago. NAM Y. HUH/AP

New wave of canceled flights closes out 2021

By David Koenig
Associated Press

More canceled flights frustrated air travelers on the final day of 2021 and appeared all but certain to inconvenience hundreds of thousands more over the New Year’s holiday weekend.

Airlines blamed many of the cancellations on crew shortages related to the spike in COVID-19 infections, along with wintry weather in parts of the

United States.

By early afternoon Friday on the East Coast, airlines had scrubbed more than 1,400 U.S. flights — about 6% of all scheduled flights — and roughly 2,900 worldwide, according to tracking service FlightAware.

That pushed the total U.S. cancellations since Christmas Eve above 9,000, with the peak of 1,520 on Dec. 26.

The disruptions come just as travel numbers climb higher going into the holiday weekend. Since Dec. 16,

more than 2 million travelers a day on average have passed through U.S. airport security checkpoints, an increase of nearly 100,000 a day since November and nearly double last December.

Led by United and JetBlue, airlines have already canceled more than 1,000 U.S. flights on Saturday and nearly 500 on Sunday.

On Friday, United canceled over 200 flights, or 11% of its schedule — and that doesn’t include

cancellations on the United Express regional affiliate. CommutAir, which operates many United Express flights, scrubbed one-third of its schedule by midday, according to FlightAware.

JetBlue canceled more than 140 flights, or 14% of its schedule, and Delta grounded more than 100, or 5% of its flights by midday Friday. Allegiant, Alaska, Spirit and regional carriers SkyWest and Mesa all scrubbed at least 9% of their flights.

CONNECTICUT

UConn delays move-in, will start classes online

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

UConn will conduct courses online only for the first two weeks of the spring semester and delay the move-in period, according to the university president. The actions were driven by a recent sharp increase in student COVID-19 positivity rates and the increasing prevalence of the virus across Connecticut and the nation, interim President Andrew Agwunobi wrote in a message to the university community. Classes will still begin on Jan. 18, but will be conducted online until Jan. 29, the message said. The new residential student move-in date will be the weekend of Jan. 29. "This is subject to further change based on the course of the pandemic," Agwunobi wrote.

Transmission of COVID-19 has spiked this week across the state, with the daily positivity rate hitting 20% Thursday. UConn also will be issuing a requirement that eligible students receive booster vaccinations, and discussions are ongoing about requiring the same for eligible faculty and staff, he wrote. "The university knows," a message on the UConn website says, "that some students have no choice but to return to our campuses over the weekend of the 15th or earlier based on your individual circumstances. On Monday, January 3, residential students needing to live on campus will be contacted by residential life with instructions on how to request approval for housing from January 15-29." International students and students with demon-

strated housing insecurity will be approved, according to the university website. Unvaccinated, exempted students are not eligible to return to university housing prior to Jan. 29. For students approved to live on campus, UConn will open in red status with added restrictions, including online course instruction, limited dining and highly limited activities, including closing in-person usage of the Recreation Center until Jan. 29. This will closely resemble the residential quarantine the university followed in fall of 2020. In January, university leaders will conduct online town hall meetings for students and staff to help answer any questions, Agwunobi wrote.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com



UConn interim President Andrew Agwunobi said spring move-in will be delayed and courses will be conducted remotely for the first two weeks of the semester after a recent sharp increase in student COVID-19 positivity rates. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Manchester residents urged to attend hearing on charter

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

MANCHESTER — At the three public hearings the Manchester charter revision commission has held since early June, Chairman Josh Howroyd said only one person, Democratic Town Committee Chairman Mike Pohl, has spoken. Howroyd urged residents to attend a public hearing set for Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Lincoln Center and offer much needed feedback on consequential issues. "We're kind of flying blind," he said. The charter defines the town's form of government and sets out the roles and responsibilities of most elected and appointed town officials. Once a commission is appointed, the entire charter is on the table for review and possible changes. This includes the form of government, which currently consists of a town manager and board of directors. The commission must

file a report to the board of directors by July 6. The board then will frame proposed charter changes for a November referendum. Directors' resolution creating the commission in April charged the panel with considering specific issues, including: ■ Allow the board of directors to draft proposals without the general manager's direction. Howroyd said the commission has not reviewed this potential change in detail and members want to hear residents' views. ■ Review the structure of the council-manager form of government. A strong mayor form of government such as East Hartford's is one option. "I don't know how much support it has," Howroyd, a former town mayor, said. ■ Revision of terms of office and compensation for board of directors members. Currently, board members get \$2,000 annually, the deputy mayor and secretary

get \$2,500 to \$2,600 and the mayor receives \$3,000, Howroyd said. The last time the amount was raised was 1996, he said. ■ Establish independent investigatory powers for the board of directors. Again, Howroyd said the commission has not addressed this possible change in any detail and members want to hear residents' views. ■ Empowering the board of directors rather than the general manager to appoint members of certain commissions, potentially including the conservation and economic development commissions. The commission's review is not restricted to those areas. Other changes being considered include: ■ Changing the name of the board of directors to "town council" and "general manager" to "town manager." The titles are anomalies in Connecticut, adopted under a corporate mindset in 1946 as the town transitioned from a board of selectmen, Howroyd said.

■ Examining the appropriateness of residency requirements for certain town staff positions. Currently, the general manager, school superintendent, police and fire chiefs, public works director and water and sewer department administrator must live in town. The residency requirement can make recruitment for those positions difficult, Howroyd said. ■ Changing references to Manchester (pop. 59,713) from "town" to "city." ■ Using gender-neutral pronouns for hundreds of references throughout the charter. Check the charter revision commission website — bod.townofmanchester.org/index.cfm/chartervision-commission — 24 hours before the meeting to find the link for remote access and other information.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Vernon man hit by car, killed walking on Route 6

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

A Vernon man was killed while he was walking in a travel lane on Route 6 in Andover on Thursday evening, state police said. Todd Uriano, 43, was taken to Windham Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, police said. The collision happened about 500 feet east of Hick-

ory Hill Drive at about 5:30 p.m. Uriano was walking east on the right shoulder when he walked into the eastbound travel lane and was struck by an Audi Quattro driven by a 47-year-old Andover man, police said. The man driving the Audi, and his 11-year-old passenger, were not injured, police said, but the vehicle had to be towed. Any witness is asked to call 860-465-5400.

Middletown police search for suspect in assault, theft

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Middletown police are asking for the public's help to track down a man wanted for assaulting a woman and stealing her car, police said Friday. Isiah Webb, 25, forced his way into a home at about 2:45 a.m., assaulted the victim, stole some of her personal property and later stole her car, police said. The vehicle has since been recovered. Police have an arrest

warrant for Webb on charges that include first-degree burglary, third-degree strangulation, third-degree assault, second-degree unlawful restraint and larceny. Webb was last seen on foot in the area Westlake Drive running from police. He should be considered a danger to the public and citizens are encouraged not to approach him. Anyone with information on Webb's location is encouraged to call police at 860-638-4000.

McDonald's workers, union activists, get jobs back

Judge says they were targeted for protected activities

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

A federal labor judge ruled that a McDonald's restaurant owner used coronavirus pandemic layoffs as a "scheme" to permanently dump four workers who were active in unionizing efforts.

Administrative Law Judge Donna N. Dawson found that the workers, who had been employed at the McDonald's at the service plaza on I-95 in Darien, were targeted by owner Michell Enterprises for protected activities. Lawson ordered Michell to reinstate the workers and compensate them for back wages and other losses. The four were laid off in 2020 as the pandemic began and never recalled. Dawson noted that the

Windsor Locks-based company, which owns other McDonald's restaurants in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, had recalled many employees who also engaged in pro-union activities. "However, as shown, no other employee's level of union and other protected activity reached the levels of the four discriminates," Dawson wrote. "This decision lays bare the way that McDonald's and

other fast food outlets have used the pandemic as cover to attack fair pay, basic benefits and workers' protected right to form a union," said Rochelle Palache, Vice President of Service Employees International Union, 32 BJ, which filed the complaint and represented the workers' at trial alongside the government. "We are proud and thrilled that (the four workers) now join other McDonald's workers who have won resti-

tution in the service plaza campaign," Palache said, "and we enter the New Year determined to win better conditions and a union for them and all their co-workers, as a part of the national campaign for \$15 and a Union." A representative of Michell Enterprises could not be reached. The ruling, according to an SEIU news release, closes out the year on a satisfying note for one of the affected workers, said Mario Franco,

who worked at the Darien service plaza McDonald's for over 20 years. "After all the struggles we've gone through," Franco said, "I'm so glad that the justice we've always desired is finally starting to arrive, and I believe together we can make this New Year the one where we win new union membership for all"

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Wind-swept fires ravage communities in Colorado

By Brittany Peterson, Patty Nieberg and Colleen Slevin
Associated Press

SUPERIOR, Colo. — One couple returned home Friday to find the mailbox about the only thing left standing. Charred cars and a burned trampoline lay outside smoldering houses. On some blocks, homes reduced to smoking ruins stood next to ones all but unscathed by the flames. Colorado residents driven from their neighborhoods by a terrifying, wind-whipped wildfire got their first, heartbreaking look at the damage the morning after, while others could only wait and wonder whether their homes were among the more than 500 feared destroyed. At least seven people were injured, but remarkably there were no immediate reports of any deaths or anyone missing in the aftermath of the blaze outside Denver. Cathy Glaab found her home in the town of Superior where she lives with her



Elise Delaware walks in the remains of her childhood home Friday in Louisville, Colorado. **JASON CONNOLLY/GETTY-AFP**

husband had been turned into a pile of charred and twisted debris. It was one of seven houses in a row that burned to the ground. "The mailbox is standing," Glaab said, trying to crack a smile through tears. She added sadly, "So many memories" Despite the devastation, she said they intend to rebuild the house they have had since 1998. They

love that the land backs up to a natural space, and they have a view of the mountains from the back. The wildfire erupted Thursday in and around Louisville and Superior, neighboring towns about 20 miles northwest of Denver with a combined population of 34,000. Tens of thousands were ordered to flee as the flames, propelled by gusts up to 105

mph, swept over drought-stricken neighborhoods with alarming speed. The cause of the blaze was under investigation. Emergency authorities said utility officials found no downed power lines around where the fire broke out. On the day after, David Marks and others stood on a hillside overlooking Superior while he used a borrowed pair of binoculars and a long camera lens to see if his house, as well as those of his neighbors, were still there. He said he thinks his home is OK, but he won't know for sure until police let residents back in. He had watched from the hillside as the neighborhood burned. "By the time I got up here, the houses were completely engulfed," he said. "I mean, it happened so quickly. I've never seen anything like that. ... Just house after house, fences, just stuff flying through the air, just caught on fire." By first light Friday, the towering flames that had

lit up the night sky had subsided and the winds had died down. Light snow soon began to fall, raising hopes it could snuff out hot spots. By late morning, the blaze had burned at least 94 square miles but was no longer considered an immediate threat. "We might have our very own New Year's miracle on our hands if it holds up that there was no loss of life," Gov. Jared Polis said, noting that many people had just minutes to evacuate. The wildfire broke out unusually late in the year, following an extremely dry fall and amid a winter nearly devoid of snow so far. Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle said more than 500 homes were probably destroyed. He and the governor said as many as 1,000 homes might have been lost, though that won't be known until crews can assess the damage. "It's unbelievable when you look at the devastation that we don't have a list of 100 missing persons," the

sheriff said. The sheriff said some communities were reduced to just "smoking holes in the ground." He urged residents to wait for the all-clear to go back, warning that it was still too dangerous in many neighborhoods because of fire and fallen power lines. Sarah Owens, her husband, adult son and their dog got out of their Superior home within 10 minutes of learning about the evacuation from a Facebook post. But as everyone tried leaving by way of the winding streets of the well-to-do Rock Creek neighborhood, it took them 1 1/2 hours to go 2 miles. Once they safely found their way to a pet-friendly hotel, their cellphones and computers could not provide them with the only thing they wanted to know: Was their house still standing? "The good news is I think our house may be OK," Owens said. But from now on, she said, she plans to have a bag packed in case of another fire.

BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

From TV to digital sites, viewership taking big hit

Cable news networks suffer steepest drop after cashing in on drama of 2020

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The presidential election, pandemic and racial reckoning were stories that drove intense interest and engagement to news outlets in 2020. To a large degree, 2021 represented the inevitable hangover. Various metrics illustrate the dwindling popularity of news content. Cable news networks were the main form of evening entertainment for millions of Americans last year. In 2021, weekday prime-time viewership dropped 38% at CNN, 34% at Fox News Channel and 25% at MSNBC, according to the Nielsen company. The decline was less steep but still significant at broadcast television evening newscasts: 12% at ABC’s “World News Tonight” and the “CBS Evening News;” 14% at NBC’s “Nightly News;” Nielsen said. The Trump era saw explosive subscriber growth for some digital news sites like The New York Times and Washington Post. Yet readers aren’t spending as much time there; Comscore said the number of unique

visitors to the Post’s site was down 44% in November compared to November 2020, and down 34% at the Times. While a Dec. 23 headline on the Los Angeles Times front page — “How Much More Can We Take?” — referred to COVID-19, it could easily be applied to the news appetite in general. For the most part, smart news executives knew the peaks of 2020 were not sustainable. “It was entirely predictable,” said news media analyst Ken Doctor. Perhaps that was most obvious at the cable news networks. They built a prime-time model almost entirely focused on political combat during the Trump years, which made it difficult for them to pivot to something different, said Tom Rosenstiel, a journalism professor at the University of Maryland. “You become, to some extent, a prisoner of the audience you built,” he said. Those networks remain focused on politics even as viewership interest wanes. The media monitoring company NewsWhip looked at 14 million political articles online last year and found they had an average of

924 engagements, or social media interactions. The 13.5 million articles NewsWhip has traced in 2021 had an average of 321 engagements. To a certain extent, these outlets have turned elsewhere for revenue opportunities, Doctor said. CNN is preparing to debut a new streaming service early this year, and recently poached Fox News’ Chris Wallace to join that effort. Fox News, while doubling down on conservative commentary following perceived threats from outlets like Newsmax and OANN, directed fans to its Fox Nation streaming service. Some 100 to 120 local newspapers shut down in 2021, a number that is on pace with the declines of the past two decades, said Penelope Muse Abernathy, a professor at Northwestern University. Yet local news outlets are also expected to have their smallest number of job cuts in 14 years, according to the research firm Challenger Gray & Christmas. That comes after 2020 saw the biggest number of lost newsroom jobs since 2008.

Nev. casinos set record for monthly winnings

By Ken Ritter
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Nevada casinos set a record in November, reporting a ninth straight month of \$1 billion or more in house winnings, gambling regulators said, providing another sign that business in the nation’s tourist-dependent gambling mecca has returned to pre-pandemic levels. The \$1.32 billion in casino winnings reported statewide for last month was up from \$1.22 billion in October, and almost reached the record \$1.36 billion figure set last July, the Nevada Gaming Control Board reported this week. The streak beat the previous record of eight consecutive months set before the Great Recession, from October 2006 to May 2007, board senior analyst Michael Lawton said. Nevada sports betting also set records — reaping a record \$72 million in November on sports wagers totaling \$1.1 billion. Lawton said the previous record was \$61.8 million in sports bets won by casinos in November 2020, and he noted sports books took in more than \$1 billion in wagers in consecutive months for the first time. Most sports wagers were made with mobile betting apps. “The continued acceptance of mobile sports wagering by customers is driving these results,” Lawton said. “This month represented the highest monthly total recorded in mobile (bets) since the board began tracking these wagers in January 2020.” Business generally has been buoyed by visitors with money to spend, Lawton said, and a sustained rebound of leisure travel and the return in early November of airline flights from international places other than Canada and Mexico.

Post-work plans are changing

As lifespans get longer, ‘financial gerontologists’ address stages of old age

By Corinne Purtill
The New York Times

When Cynthia Hutchins started her career as a financial planner in the 1980s, the concept of “retirement” was simple and straightforward. Most of her clients envisioned a few years of leisure after their full-time careers ended, with a pension, Social Security and perhaps a bit of savings providing steady support. “When my grandmother retired, as an example, if you lived into your 70s that was considered to be a really good, long life,” Hutchins said recently over video chat from her home office outside Baltimore. As the years went on, she noticed a shift in her conversations with clients at Merrill Lynch, where she worked as a retirement specialist. The defined-benefit plans their parents had relied on were fading away, replaced by self-funded schemes that demanded a great deal more planning on the employee’s part. What’s more, people no longer imagined their so-called retirements as a few golden years of golf and grandchildren. The 20th century added more years to life expectancy than any era of human history before it. As the new century loomed, Hutchins’ clients were grappling with decisions that previous generations simply hadn’t lived long enough to face. They were trying to plan for decadeslong stretches that included multiple phases: leaving work to care for an aging parent, a second career, the possibility of needing full-time care themselves. Even in her own family, Hutchins saw how gains in life expectancy were outpacing the plans people made for themselves. Her grandmother died at 96, four decades after retiring from the Social Security Administration at age 55. “She lived 41 years in retirement, and it hit me that had she known she had 41 years, she would have planned totally differently,” she said. That realization prompted a career shift. Hutchins, 61, is now the director of financial gerontology at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, a role in which she educates the firm’s nearly 19,000 financial advisers on working with clients across all stages of life. The training she has developed helps advisers understand the complexities that can accumulate as the years pile up: how to simultaneously finance children’s college education and parents’ in-home care; when to bring in adult children or other family members to collaborate on financial deci-



Cynthia Hutchins of Bank of America Merrill Lynch now educates the firm’s 19,000 financial advisers on working with clients across all stages of life. TING SHEN/THE NEW YORK TIMES

sions; how to recognize if a long-term client is being financially exploited or experiencing cognitive changes that are influencing their decision-making. Hutchins was named to the newly created role in 2014, shortly after obtaining her master’s degree from the University of Southern California’s Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. At the time, Merrill Lynch (which had not yet merged with Bank of America) was the first major bank to employ a financial gerontologist, and is still the only major one to use that title. Being the first to hold this role gave Hutchins freedom to shape a subspecialty that is small but growing in significance. In contrast to the medical specialty of geriatrics, which focuses on the physical

concerns of the later stages of life, gerontology is a multidisciplinary field that includes the social and psychological implications of aging and longevity. Doctors concerned with a patient’s longevity don’t just look at vital signs, but also ask about the social factors affecting their patient’s health, like access to social support, adequate food and transportation to appointments. Similarly, financial planners who have completed training in longevity know the questions to ask to make sure that their clients are on track for successful financial outcomes in older age, and that they will be comfortable starting necessary but potentially difficult conversations about long-term care, health and end-of-life plans.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Holiday rebound for USPS in 2021

PORTLAND, Maine — The U.S. Postal Service pulled out all the stops to avoid a repeat of the 2020 holiday shipping disaster, and it worked. ShipMatrix, which analyzes shipping package data, reported that 96.9% of the Postal Service’s shipments were on time during a two-week period in December. In 2020, more than a third of first-class mail was late by the time Christmas arrived. The Postal Service installed 112 new package sorting machines, transitioned more than 60,000 pre-career employees to the ranks of career employees, hired 40,000 seasonal employees and leased extra space at more than 100 locations since last year, officials said. As a bonus, the number of quarantined postal workers was less than last year.

China-focused trade bloc begins

BANGKOK — Members of a China-centered Asian trade bloc that takes effect Jan. 1 are hoping the initiative, encompassing about a third of world trade, will help power their recoveries from the pandemic. The 15-member Regional and Comprehensive Economic Partnership includes China, Japan, South Korea and many other Asian countries. It does not include the U.S. or India. The deal slashes tariffs on thousands of products for member nations and also takes into account issues such as e-commerce and intellectual property. But it has less stringent labor and environmental requirements than those expected by the European Union or Trans-Pacific Partnership, which includes many of the same nations but not China.

Firm wants to restore oil lease on tribal land

By Matthew Brown
Associated Press

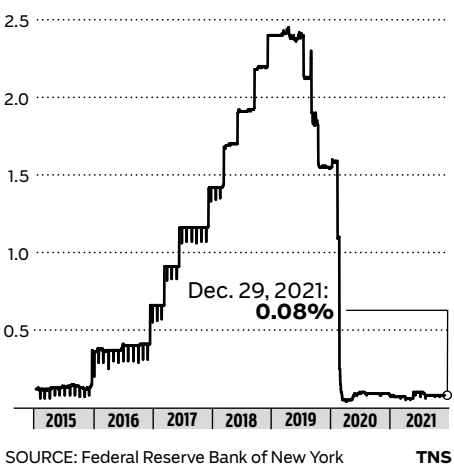
BILLINGS, Mont. — Attorneys for a Louisiana oil and gas company have asked a federal judge to reinstate a drilling lease it held on land considered sacred to Native American tribes in the U.S. and Canada. The long-disputed lease in the Badger-Two Medicine area of northwestern Montana near the Blackfeet Reservation was canceled in 2016 under then-U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. That decision was upheld by a federal appeals court last year. Now Solenex LLC — the company that held the lease — is making another run at getting a court to restore its drilling rights.

In court documents filed last week in a lawsuit against the Interior Department, its attorneys argued that Jewell exceeded her authority and the lease should be reinstated. Solenex founder Sidney Longwell, who died in 2020, bought the 10-square-mile lease in 1982 but never drilled on the site. Instead, Longwell confronted major bureaucratic delays within the U.S. departments of Interior and Agriculture that prompted the company to sue in 2013. The Badger-Two-Medicine area near Glacier National Park is the site of the creation story of the Blackfoot tribes of southern Canada and Montana’s Blackfeet Nation. There have been efforts to declare it a national monument or make

it a cultural heritage area, and tribal leaders have bitterly opposed Solenex’s drilling aspirations. The Blackfeet have intervened in the case on the side of the government. Blackfeet Nation historic preservation officer John Murray said tribal officials were confident in the case against drilling. “We knew they still wanted to try to do drilling,” Murray said. “We’ve got some good attorneys. I think we’re going to prevail.” Solenex attorneys said the government unlawfully “outsourced” its decisions by deferring to the tribe’s wishes to block drilling. They said officials should have considered ways drilling impacts could be lessened or offset if it were to proceed.

Effective federal funds rate

Daily interest rate at which banks lend each other reserve funds



SOURCE: Federal Reserve Bank of New York TNS

BUSINESS



A federal safety agency has received scores of complaints of engine fires in Hyundai and Kia vehicles. Above, a Hyundai vehicle at an Illinois dealer. **NAM Y. HUH/AP 2012**

US accelerates its probes of fires in Hyundai, Kia engines

By Tom Krisher
Associated Press

DETROIT — U.S. auto safety regulators have stepped up a series of investigations into engine fires that have plagued Hyundai and Kia vehicles for more than six years.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says a new engineering analysis investigation covers more than 3 million vehicles from the 2011 through 2016 model years.

The agency has received 161 complaints of engine fires, some of which occurred in vehicles that had already been recalled.

Engine failures and fires have dogged the Korean automakers' vehicles since September 2015 when the company issued an engine failure recall. Since then it has issued at least eight more recalls for a host of engine problems, according to NHTSA documents posted on its website this week.

The agency says it's opening the engineering analysis to evaluate whether previous recalls covered enough vehicles. It also will monitor the effectiveness

of previous recalls "as well as the long-term viability of related programs and non-safety field actions being conducted by Hyundai and Kia."

The engineering analysis could lead to further recalls.

Hyundai said that it is cooperating fully with U.S. regulators.

"Hyundai has taken numerous proactive actions to address engine issues, including conducting several recalls, launching a new engine monitoring technology, providing extended warranties and enhancing our customer service response," the company said in a statement. "Hyundai fosters a culture of transparency and accountability as the safety of our customers is the top priority in everything we do."

The vehicle fires involve the related Korean automakers' Theta II GDI, Theta II MPI, Theta II MPI hybrid, Nu GDI and Gamma GDI engines. Models covered include Hyundai's Sonata, Santa Fe, and Elantra and as well as Kia's Sorento, Rio, Optima and Soul. Model years covered are 2011 through 2016.

The agency says three people have reported eye and burn injuries that did not require medical treatment.

In November 2020, NHTSA announced that Kia and Hyundai must pay \$137 million in fines and for safety improvements because they moved too slowly to recall more than 1 million vehicles with engines that can fail. The fines resolve a previous probe into the companies' behavior involving recalls of multiple models dating to the 2011 model year.

Kia was to pay \$27 million and invest \$16 million in safety performance measures. Another \$27 million payment will be deferred as long as Kia meets safety conditions, NHTSA said.

Kia denied the U.S. allegations but said it wanted to avoid a protracted legal fight. Data collected by the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety show 31 U.S. fire and engine-related recalls from Hyundai and Kia since 2015. The recalls involve more than 20 models from the 2006 through 2021 model years totaling over 8.4 million vehicles.

Big tax break not enough for Japan's employers to hike pay

By Ben Dooley
and Hisako Ueno
The New York Times

TOKYO — Over the past two years, Masataka Yoshimura has poured money into the custom-suit business his family founded over 100 years ago. He has upgraded his factory, installed automated inventory management systems and retrained workers who have been replaced by software and robots.

Japan's prime minister wants him to do one more thing: Give his employees a substantial raise.

Wage growth has been stagnant for decades in Japan, the wealth gap is widening and the quickest fix is nudging people like Yoshimura to pay their employees more. Higher wages, the thinking goes, will jump-start consumer spending and lift Japan's sputtering economy.

But raises are a nonstarter for Yoshimura. Increasing wages would be "truly fatal," he said last month from his office at Yoshimura & Sons in Tokyo. And he is far from alone in his thinking. Business groups, union leaders and others have questioned the feasibility of a plan by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to offer sizable tax deductions to companies that raise pay.

That businesses would resist increasing wages even when essentially paid to do so shows just how intractable the problem is. Years of weak growth and moribund inflation rates have left companies little room to raise prices. Without steady, moderate increases in inflation, corporations' profits — and their workers' wages — have languished, economists say.

The reaction to the wage proposal is an inauspicious sign for Kishida, who took office two months ago promising to reverse the economic damage of the past two years



Japan's government wants employers to raise wages. Above, an employee meets and a customer at Yoshimura & Sons, a tailor in Tokyo. **NIROKO HAYASHI/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

and put Japan's economy back on track.

Kishida's plan is a first step toward defining the nebulous concept, which he has described as a framework for creating sustainable growth and reducing economic inequality.

The prime minister is calling on employers to increase pay as much as 4% in 2022. Companies that comply will be allowed to increase their overall corporate tax deductions up to 40%. The government has announced that it will raise officially regulated wages 3% next year for nurses and workers providing care for children and seniors.

While many businesses have recognized the need for higher wages, they have questioned whether the measures, as announced, will have any effect on the country's regular pay-setting process.

Major companies and unions negotiate raises each spring in a ritual known as "shuntou" — literally, "spring offensive." The last time the result even approached Kishida's recommended level was in 1997, when workers won a 2.9% raise. Today, average wages remain stuck at around \$2,800 a month, about the same level as two

decades ago.

During the pandemic, Japan has avoided the unemployment spikes seen in countries like the United States. But it has also meant that many companies have limited flexibility in hiring and firing under the system of lifetime employment, potentially making them less responsive to changing economic conditions.

Low wage growth is effectively the outcome of a compromise struck between labor and capital. Since the 1990s, "Japanese workers have preferred job security over wage growth," said Naohiko Baba, chief Japan economist at Goldman Sachs, though companies do pay workers biannual bonuses that can fluctuate significantly with corporate profits.

Companies tend to limit their permanent workforce through the use of temporary or part-time workers, avoiding the work-for-life contracts that were common in Japan through the early 1990s, when the country's economic bubble burst. Today, so-called nonregular employees make up around 37% of the country's labor force, an underclass of low-paid, dispensable workers, nearly 70% of whom are women.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Saturday, January 1, 2022

↓ DOW
36,338.30 -59.78

10-YR T-BOND
1.51% ...

↑ GOLD
\$1,827.50 +14.80

FUELS

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	75.21	76.99	+55.01%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	3.73	3.56	+46.91%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.23	2.30	+56.50%

METALS

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Gold (oz)	1,827.50	1,812.70	-3.47%
Silver (oz)	23.33	23.03	-11.41%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx
Britain	1.3534	.7389
Canada	.7911	1.2640
China	.1573	6.3559
Euro	1.1384	.8785
Japan	.008689	115.09
Mexico	.048785	20.4981

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV.	WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25	
3-mo. T-Bill	0.06	0.08	
6-mo. T-Bill	0.19	0.18	
5-yr T-Note	1.26	1.25	
10-yr T-Note	1.51	1.49	
30-yr T-Bond	1.91	1.90	

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	15,884.86	+32.61	+0.21%	+15.79%
London	7,384.54	-18.47	-0.25%	+14.30%
Hong Kong	23,397.67	+285.66	+1.24%	+14.08%
Nikkei	28,791.71	-115.17	-0.40%	+4.91%

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	36,338.30	-59.78	+18.73%
DOW Trans.	16,478.26	+97.71	+31.75%
DOW Util.	980.78	+3.33	+13.43%
NYSE Comp.	17,164.13	-.11	+18.17%
Nasdaq Comp.	15,644.97	-96.59	+21.39%
S&P 500	4,766.18	-12.55	+26.89%
S&P 400	2,842.00	+2.67	+23.21%
Wilshire 5000	48,461.16	-146.79	+22.82%
Russell 2000	2,245.31	-3.48	+13.69%

Stocks of Local Interest									
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG		STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG	
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	27.20	-1.74	+1183.0		MetLife Inc (MET)	62.49	-.09	+33.1	
AT&T Inc (T)	24.60	-.18	-14.5		Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	336.32	-3.00	+51.2	
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	143.90	-1.25	+56.9		Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH)	20.74	-.28	-18.4	
AgeX Therapeutics (AGE)	1.09	+.50	-28.3		Novartis AG (NVS)	87.47	+.01	-7.4	
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	17.96	-.11	+13.9		Nutriband Inc (NTRB)	10.08	+6.17	+50.7	
Amer Virtual Cloud (AVCT)	2.43	+.22	-66.3		Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	294.11	-1.75	+125.3	
Amphenol Corp (APH)	87.46	+.44	...		Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	87.07	+.71	+28.9	
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	7.82	-.13	-7.5		Palantir Technol (PLTR)	18.21	-.48	-22.7	
Apple Inc (AAPL)	177.57	-.63	+33.8		Peloton Interactive (PTON)	35.76	-1.43	-76.4	
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	49.88	-.37	+9.7		Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	17.82	+.12	+37.8	
Bank of America (BAC)	44.49	-.04	+46.8		Pfizer Inc (PFE)	59.05	+.65	+60.4	
Barnes Group (B)	46.59	-.06	-8.1		Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.63	+.01	+7.6	
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2399.23	+3.31	+7.7		Pop Culture Grp Cp (CPOP)	3.63	+.74	-88.0	
BridgeBio Pharma Inc (BBIO)	16.68	+2.13	-76.5		Progenity Inc (PROG)	2.09	-.04	-60.6	
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	62.35	-.17	+.5		Prudential Fncl (PRU)	108.24	-.39	+38.6	
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	103.16	-.52	+51.0		Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	66.73	+.41	+14.5	
Carnival Corp (CCL)	20.12	-.41	-7.1		Raytheon Technol (RTX)	86.06	+.26	+20.3	
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	54.24	+.69	+43.8		Rogers Corp (ROG)	273.00	-.08	+75.8	
Charter Communic (CHTR)	651.97	-5.26	-1.4		Roblox Corp (RBLX)	103.16	+2.63	+48.4	
Cigna Corp (CI)	229.63	-1.12	+10.3		SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	81.98	-.24	+12.7	
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc (CLF)	21.77	+.53	+49.5		Sirius XM Hldgs Inc (SIRI)	6.35	-.07	-.3	
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	50.33	-.26	-.40		SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	15.81	-.14	-30.2	
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	3.11	-.11	-62.9		Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	4.66	-.14	+56.4	
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	4.98	-.25	-64.8		Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	188.62	+1.89	+5.6	
Disney (DIS)	154.89	-1.04	-14.5		Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.30	-.08	+25.9	
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	127.39	-.03	+39.3		Sunland Growers Inc (SNDL)	.58	-.02	+21.9	
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.29	+.13	+30.1		Teredix Corp (TEX)	43.95	+.02	+26.0	
Eversource Energy (ES)	90.98	-.16	+5.2		Transocean Ltd (TRIG)	2.76	-.08	+19.5	
Ford Motor (F)	20.77	+.30	+136.3		Travelers Cos (TRV)	156.43	-.38	+11.4	
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.20	-.13	-53.4		United Rentals (URI)	332.29	+2.40	+43.3	
Gen Dynamics (GD)	208.47	+.93	+40.1		UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	502.14	-2.29	+43.2	
Gen Electric (GE)	94.47	-.23	+9.6		Verizon Comm (VZ)	51.96	-.29	+11.6	
Hartford Fw Sv (HIG)	69.04	-.08	+41.0		ViacomCBS Inc B (VIAC)	30.18	-.94	-19.0	
Honeywell Intl (HON)	208.51	+1.40	-2.0		Virtus Invest (VRTS)	297.10	-.33	+36.9	
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.92	+.04	+20.2		Voya Financial (VOYA)	66.31	-.22	+12.8	
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	25.31	-.10	+44.9		Webster Financial (WBS)	55.84	-.31	+32.5	
Intel Corp (INTC)	51.50	-.24	+3.4		White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1013.90	+1.56	+1.3	
Kaman (KAMN)	43.15	+.15	-24.5		World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	49.34	+.36	+2.7	
Keycorp (KEY)	23.13	-.06	+41.0		XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	77.43	+1.03	+11.6	
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	68.26	-.28	+35.7		Xeris Biopharma Hldg (XERS)	2.93	+.50	-40.4	
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	38.05	-.70	+41.8		Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	22.64	-.18	-2.4	
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	44.88	+.12	+42.4						
Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.99	+.01	+14.7						
Medallist Diversified (MDRR)	1.20	+.18	-45.0						
Meten Holding Group (METX)	.25	-.01	-87.5						

TOO LATE?

Why is it that with all of our history we learn little if anything from history?

CONSIDER THE NATION! The people go from CHAINS to spiritual faith; from SPIRITUAL FAITH to courage; from COURAGE to liberty; from LIBERTY to abundance; from ABUNDANCE to selfishness; from SELFISHNESS to complacency (self-satisfaction); from COMPLACENCY to apathy (lack of interest); from APATHY to despondency; from DESPONDENCY back again to BONDAGE. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

CONSIDER YOURSELF! Solomon, King of Israel, sums up the world and human affairs when God is left out: "A time to be born, and a time to die...a time to get, and a time to lose...a time of war, and a time of peace. WHAT PROFIT hath he who worketh in that wherein he laboureth? I have seen the travail which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-11). People are held accountable to God for how they act and how they react as they travel through time. Our attempts to rightly outwork the realities found in time without GOD'S PERSON and WORD leave us BOUND and BOTHERED, gaining little if any profit. So it is with mankind's profit and loss account. To every plus (being born, getting, etc.) there is an equal and opposite minus (dying, losing, etc.); so the sum total is of no profit, only loss.

CONSIDER THE PROFIT AND THE LOSS! The Lord Jesus said, "For what shall it PROFIT a man, if he shall GAIN the WHOLE WORLD, and LOSE his own SOUL? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his own soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:36-38).

CONSIDER THE LIVING GOD! "For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; GOD HIMSELF that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. LOOK UNTO ME, and BE YE SAVED, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:18,22). "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be SAVED" (John 3:17). "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES; for in them ye think ye have ETERNAL LIFE: and they are they which testify of ME" (John 5:39).

The Lord Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have LIFE, and that they might have it more ABUNDANTLY. And this is LIFE ETERNAL, that they might KNOW Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" (John 10:10;17:3).

GOD DOES NOT CHANGE.

HE REMAINS TRUE AND FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD.

It is not TOO LATE for you to receive the Lord Jesus Christ Who is GOD'S PERSONAL AND COMPLETE ANSWER FOR YOUR SOUL and for the good of society. The realities of time are unavoidable and are to be wonderfully PROFITABLE for the believing heart.

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7:00 pm Evening Worship

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Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

OP-ED

Here’s to 40 years of sobriety

Let tomorrow be 40 years and a day

By Ed LaFreniere

New Year’s Eve, 1981. Forty years ago, I was living alone, standing over the kitchen sink in my cold, leaky Old Lyme beach house. Determined yet frightened, hands unsteady, I was pouring out every ounce from six bottles of top-shelf liquor I had bought for a party at someone else’s apartment for the next day. Whose place I don’t remember.

Three days earlier had been a final encounter with my drink of choice — scotch. Now the contents of the upended last bottle, trillions of molecules of swirling liquid gold, the color a deep and rich orange honey, flowed down the drain from a bottle of well-aged Glenfiddich, a brand so expensive that I had never even ordered a shot of it. I held my breath, trying not to infuse my nostrils with the seductive scent, and turned on the tap to wash down the last remnants. And then threw in some Ajax.

A few days before, I had driven from Hartford to the shoreline after a workplace Christmas party, and I can still visualize the scene through my windshield as if on film: weaving down Route 9 just south of Middletown, crossing from lane to lane, unable to control the wheel, and telling myself, “You idiot, you ought to be arrested.” There was no denying what was happening, no excuse; this was dangerous to others as well as to myself.

But lucky I was. I made it home in one piece after 25 more miles, and to my great fortune, the next afternoon, a friend and fellow drinker dropped by as I was lying on the couch nursing stomach pains.

“Guess what?” she said as if she’d just won the lottery. “I just joined AA! I haven’t had a drink in five days!”

I was astonished. I had never known that anyone who maintained a job and was so bright would join a group consisting of the down-and-out — weren’t they the ones whose gaze you averted as you stepped around them on a sidewalk? Little did I know that addiction knew no socioeconomic bound, background, IQ, age, living condition or any other characteristic.

I stared speechless at this woman, who suddenly seemed like a hero.

“Are you all right?” she asked.

I hesitated and shocked myself by blurt-ing out, “Can you take me with you some-time?”

“Seriously?” she said. “Sure. I’m going every night.”

“How about tomorrow?” I said. “I can’t show up feeling like this.”

“I don’t know if you need this, but come along,” she said, not knowing the full



ANGELA WEISS/GETTY-AFP

extent of my private nightly and weekend drinking.

The next evening she picked me up, and I remember sitting in a large, white wood-paneled fellowship room in Clinton, listening to 50 or so other people describe hell on earth — emotional disorders, car accidents, deaths, losses of jobs, houses and families, the experience of being in jail, of hating themselves, of hopelessness, of unending guilt. They were listening to each other with great intensity, all drinking coffee, one woman knitting, a man holding his head in his hands, but many looking entirely comfortable.

The couple chairing the meeting — six months sober at the time — called on me after an hour or so and told me that I didn’t have to say anything. They just offered a warm welcome.

I did not hesitate.

“I’m suffering the same pain that you’ve all described,” I said, voice quivering, tears streaming down my face. “The hopelessness. The fears. The depression. And I feel right at home. I think I’ve found my home,” I added with great relief and a palpable sigh of hope, as an elusive solution just may have fallen from the sky.

How many of us are so lucky to receive

the gift of life-changing — if not lifesaving — support, but for the grace of God? Had my friend not appeared, I would likely have been dead now a long time.

I am grateful in so many ways. For having a full and rewarding life, for example, as a husband, a father, a friend. For the ability to relate to people in a real and thoughtful way. And to feel respected, even a little? Priceless!

There are countless other rewards. For example, I no longer have to keep notes on my bedside table listing the names of people I had drunk with the previous night. After all, you want to be able to apologize to anyone you may have offended, even if you don’t remember what you said, if anything. But you apologize anyway, just in case, time after time, devoid of self-esteem and any sense of dignity. The good days were the ones waking up to a note that said ‘OK,’ meaning that I did not need to apologize for anything — or perhaps I had been by myself.

I am grateful for many little things — to be able to eat breakfast, for instance, rather than being too ill to do so. I recall my first one in years — a big breakfast in Old Saybrook, by myself — and I must have been beaming as if I’d just been awarded

the Heisman Trophy. I still treasure a cup of coffee because my hands don’t shake like they used to. I will always be thankful for an evening at the grocery store, or even to go out and gas up the car — normal daily living. Sober.

Every morning for 40 years I have gone for a walk. I drink two Diet Cokes along the way, the carbonation a constant reminder that today I don’t need the hair of the dog, a beer first thing in the morning. I pray during every one of these walks, including the 12-step Serenity Prayer, grateful not to be dead or institutionalized, able to chat with people, to be a friend to others, to offer advice, to be appreciated. Every morning I run through that last week, and as cars pass by, I recall that night on Route 9 vividly.

I am grateful for all the people — from all walks of life — who have offered support, whatever it has taken.

If there is a hell, it will be the horrible prison of mind that once was and that could return at any minute.

Today it’s 40 years. Please, God, let tomorrow be 40 years and one day.

Ed LaFreniere is a former editor at the Courant. He lives in Gig Harbor, Washington.

OP-ED

Our obligations to history in 2022

By E.J. Dionne Jr.
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — History is much on our minds, and not only because we’re arguing about how our past should be presented to public school students. We also sense — correctly — that we are at a hinge point for democracy itself. The two are linked: From the beginning of the republic, arguments over history have mirrored the conflicts in our politics.

I was reminded of this during a recent conversation with a person dear to me, my high school history teacher, Jim Garman. Jim deepened my love for the American saga by showing how great historians argued among themselves about what the past meant. As he put it, “there are many ways to tell the story.” It’s useful to learn early on that our history will always be contested.

In the 1960s, when I was in Jim’s class, the curriculum reflected the “conflict or consensus” debate about how best to understand the long American arc. The consensus school was nearing the end of its dominance, as was the power of a middle-of-the-road political perspective that shaped politics in the years after the New Deal and World War II.

Dwight D. Eisenhower had moved the Republican Party toward acceptance of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s project and preached the need for “balance.” John F. Kennedy, the Democrat who followed him, spoke out against a “grand warfare of rival ideologies” that would “sweep the country with passion.” Kennedy called for a “more basic discussion of the sophisticated and technical questions involved in keeping a great economic machinery moving ahead.”

Many of the era’s great historians and social scientists, reflecting the view that

we had reached “the end of ideology,” were pushing against a Progressive era framework that stressed class conflict. No, said the influential political scientist Louis Hartz, encapsulating the prevailing view that we were united by a single ideology. Our nation was built on a “moral unanimity” behind the “fixed, dogmatic liberalism” reflected in the individualistic thinking of John Locke.

The consensus outlook soon came crashing down as the academy rediscovered how deeply conflict ran through our DNA. This dissenting narrative rose alongside the civil rights and feminist movements. The turmoil of the late 1960s and early 1970s reignited passions that Kennedy hoped were part of our past.

The emerging generation of historians highlighted problems around race, class and gender. “Dissertations in social history quadrupled from 1958 to 1978,” the writer Scott Spillman noted, “as young scholars sought to recover the experiences of women, slaves, free blacks, Native Americans, immigrants and children.”

Later, as New York University professor Kim Phillips-Fein observed, the rise of a conservative movement directed against the accommodations that Eisenhower had championed turned the study of conservatism into “one of the most dynamic subfields in American history.”

What can we learn from the past half-century’s history wars? First, that it’s deeply misleading to downplay deep conflicts around ideology, race, class, gender and immigration. All are central to who we were and who we would become.

To do this is not to deny the importance of liberty, equality and community to our narrative. They were always touchstones for those who battled to improve our republic. But battle they did.

Second, school boards and politicians

should beware of insisting upon sanitized, state-sanctioned versions of our nation’s messy past. Students will not appreciate our country any less when great teachers like Jim engage them in the arguments that are foundational to what it means to be an American.

Finally, let’s recognize that democracy advanced not when our nation papered over conflict in the name of false consensus but, rather, when our forebears took up the struggle for justice — even when it made some people uncomfortable.

It’s an American habit to long for a politics without conflict, for a happy, peaceable republic where interests and ideologies give way to constructive collaboration. Who doesn’t understand this aspiration at a time when we can’t even agree on the most basic steps (vaccination, mask-wearing) to keep as many of us as possible alive and healthy?

So, yes, I want us to be kinder and more understanding toward one another in the coming year. We would do well to embrace the Rev. David Hollenbach’s call for “intellectual solidarity.” He’s right that the world would be a better place if we sought the truth together through disciplined conversation and authentic dialogue.

But we won’t get to the searching interactions Hollenbach calls for if we indulge the illusion of a democratic public life without friction. The same realism should lead us to reject the romantic fallacy that the American story is largely a consensual project.

As long as democracy itself is under threat, as it certainly will be in 2022, we would be untrue to our history if we gave up the fight just because we longed for some peace and quiet.

E.J. Dionne writes about politics for The Washington Post.

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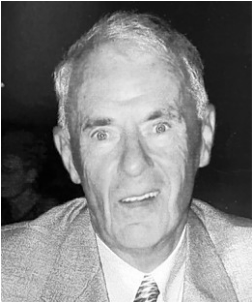
OBITUARIES BY TOWN

- Bristol**
Leonard J. Roy, Sr.
- Enfield**
John Birmingham
- Glastonbury**
John Birmingham
- Hartford**
Robert Martinson
- Manchester**
Annette McCall
Joseph F. Peroni
- Simsbury**
Peter B. Hanley, Sr.
- West Hartford**
Peter B. Hanley, Sr.

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Birmingham, John



John Thomas Birmingham, fondly known as “Jackie”, entered into eternal peace on Wednesday, December 29, 2021. Jackie was born on June 5, 1935 in Knockalaughta, Co Roscommon, Ireland. He was the son of the late James & Nora (Burke) Birmingham.



Jackie spent most of his growing-up years in Cloonfad Co. Galway where he attended local schools. He played Irish Gaelic Football and was the goalie on the Dunmore McHales team that won the 1951 Galway Minor Championship.

He was also the goalie on the 1968 Hartford Gaelic Football team that beat Cleveland at Dillon Stadium for the US National Gaelic football championship. Jack was awarded the Irishman of the Year in 1996 in recognition of his efforts and achievements with regards to Irish concerns and the further success of the Hartford Gaelic Football Club.

He came to Hartford CT in 1956 and served in the Army National Guard. He married the love of his life, Bridget (Lavelle) in Holyoke MA on June 19, 1965. They lived in Hartford for 4 years, before moving to Enfield where they lived for the last 52 years. He worked for several years in construction before starting with United Parcel Service (UPS) where he worked as a truck driver for 30 years, retiring in 1998. In his retirement, he enjoyed golfing, taking cruises and traveling with his wife and family to Cape Cod, Ireland, England and their yearly trips to Florida.

He belonged to the Claddagh Club of Enfield, and the Irish American Home in Glastonbury and was active in the annual Hartford St. Patrick’s Day Parade. His most cherished time was spent with his family and at gatherings with the extended family. He also enjoyed coaching his kids in soccer, watching his kids & grand-kids’ hockey, baseball, softball games, Irish Dancing & cheerleading.

Besides his beautiful bride Bridget, Jackie is survived by his three children, Patrick (Bridget) Birmingham of Ellington, CT, John (Jill) Birmingham of Enfield, CT and Kathleen (Tim) Miller of Bethel, CT; his grandchildren, Nora, Catherine and Brendan Birmingham, Emma and Michaela Birmingham, and Thomas (TJ) and Dennis Miller; his brothers, James (June) Birmingham of West Hartford, CT and Hubert (Kit) Birmingham of Dunmore Co. Galway; and brothers-in-law, Joseph Cawley of Bristol, England, Michael (Eileen) of West Yarmouth MA, Patrick of Holyoke MA, Jack (Mary) of Dallas, TX, Eddie (Margaret) of Holyoke MA, and several nephews & nieces in the US, Ireland & England. He was predeceased by a brother Michael & Sister-in law Elizabeth Birmingham, Kildare, Ireland and a sister Evelyn Cawley, Bristol, England.His family also wishes to extend a gracious thank you to Colleen Frew for her kind, supporting and compassionate care for the last 4 years.

Visitation hours will be held from 4-7 p.m. Monday Jan. 3, 2022 at Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels, 61 South Rd., Enfield. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday Jan 4, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Holy Family Church of St. Jeanne Jugan Parish (please meet directly at church, 23 Simon Rd., Enfield, CT). The Mass will be live-streamed by Holy Family at the following web address https://sjenfield.org/ , scroll to the bottom of the home page and you will see their streaming services listed. MASKS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE VISITATION AND MASS. Burial will follow at St. Jerome Cemetery, located at 125 Saint Jerome Ave, Holyoke, MA 01040.

In Lieu of flowers, donations in Jackie’s memory may be made to the Parkinson’s Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Suite 800, Miami, FL 33131. To leave online condolences, please visit www.Leetestevens.com

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McCall, Annette



Annette McCall, 69, of Manchester, passed away on December 29, 2021, in Hartford after a long illness. She was born in Bridgeport February 16, 1952, to Michael and Agnes Chodan, where she grew up with her older brother Peter. She attended Saint Ambrose Elementary School and Notre Dame High School, then obtained degrees from Central Connecticut State University and the University of New Haven. Annette married Alan McCall of Lebanon, Connecticut in 1978 and they settled in Manchester, where they lived until her death. She worked for many years in the State Department of Education in Hartford. Annette was very much into sports, favoring the New York Yankees, Boston Celtics, Dallas Cowboys and New York Rangers. She was an avid fan of NASCAR hero Dale Earnhardt. She played and coached softball for many years. Annette was rarely without a cat or a Volvo. She devoted many years of service to the Manchester Area Conference of Churches.

Annette was a devoted family person, and leaves behind her husband and their two children: Caroline McCall of Windsor and Michael McCall of Natick, Massachusetts, their spouses Cristofer Osden of Windsor and Emily Taylor of Natick, two treasured granddaughters, Emmaline Osden and Alice Taylor McCall, her brother Peter Chodan of Dunkirk, New York, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Calling hours will be held on Monday January 3, 2021, from 6:00 pm -8:00 pm at the Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, CT. A Funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Tuesday, January 4, 2021, at 10:00 am, with burial to follow in the East Cemetery, Manchester, CT.

Donations may be sent to the Parish of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, 80 Main Street, Manchester, or the Manchester Area Conferences of Churches, 466 Main Street, Manchester. To leave a memory or message of condolence, please visit www.holmeswatkins.com

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OBITUARIES

Hanley, Sr., Peter Baxter



August 4, 1943 - Dec 26, 2021
Peter went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, December 26th surrounded by his wife, Sheri, and two of their children, Patrick and Molly and his other three children there in spirit. Born in 1943 to the late Eugene and Mary Hanley, Peter grew up in Winsted, CT where he was a standout student athlete and friend



to many at Gilbert High School where he graduated in 1961. He went on to graduate from St. Bonaventure University with a Bachelors Degree in Finance in 1965 before being accepted into Officers Candidate School for the US Navy. He served as a Naval Officer in Virginia Beach, VA for four years. He met his wife of 44 years in Bridgewater, VT where he owned and operated Hanley Construction for 11 years, and they started a family, eventually settling in Simsbury, CT, raising their five children for almost 30 years. During that time, he worked as Vice President of the commercial lending department at Shawmut National Bank before eventually owning the well respected West Hartford Stairs and Cabinets in West Hartford, CT where his true passion lay in custom woodworking. He later went on to start Hanley Builders with his sons and built custom homes in the Farmington Valley region of Connecticut. His love and talent in carpentry also led him to build a beautiful cabin in Belgrade Lakes, ME where his family and extended family spent many happy summers together on Hoyt Island. Peter and Sheri retired to Deerfield Beach, FL in 2012 where he spent several years on the Board of Directors and President of Penthouse Condominiums where they resided. Peter is most remembered for his kind, gentle nature, his caringness and generosity, his loyalty and love for his family, as well as his love and respect for animals and nature.

Peter is survived by his loving wife Sheri of 44 years, his son Colby (Sarah) of East Granby, son Peter Jr. (Kirsten) of Monroe, CT, son Patrick of Granby, CT, daughter Molly of Knoxville, TN and daughter Elizabeth (Bradford) of Waretown, NJ, as well as four grandsons, Eric, Finn, Aiden and Noah. He also leaves behind his brother Robert Hanley of Saratoga, NY, his sister Susan Hanley of Goshen, CT and late brother, Eugene Hanley, along with many nieces and nephews who loved him dearly.

Calling hours will be held on Monday, January 3rd from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Vincent Funeral Home, 880 Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury. Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 4th at St. Mary’s Church, 942 Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury. Burial with military honors will follow in Simsbury Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to St. Jude Children’s Hospital where he was a faithful donor. Please visit Peter’s “Book of Memories” at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes or to watch the livestream of the Mass.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](https://www.courant.com/obituaries)

Martinson, Robert



Robert Martinson, 82, a life-long resident of Hartford died December 29, 2021 at his home. An Army veteran, Robert was born December 28, 1939, son of the late Brigadier General Robert H. Martinson and Helen (Kelleher) Martinson. He was a beloved Uncle known for his smile, quick wit and a perpetual twinkle in his eyes. He was a man on the go with natural athleticism in hockey and swimming. He enjoyed his love of the water and fishing in Westbrook. He was employed by the City of Hartford since June 1956 till his death. He was a lifelong life-guard and swim coach who profoundly enjoyed his work and work family. Robert had a close-knit circle of friends who he loved and respected and supported him throughout his life. He was a widely known figure in swimming with an infectious love of the sport, with a reputation for motivating athletes at all levels with a list of champions who came under his tutelage. Robert was known by his colleagues as the man to make the pool sparkle. He was a graduate of Hartford Public High School. Robert is predeceased by both his parents, his sister, Lorraine Mawdsley and her husband Thomas, his brother Kenneth Martinson and his wife JoAnn. He is survived by his nieces Karen Weisher and husband Steve, Susan Wilson and husband Skip, Wendy Martinson, Stacy Martinson and his nephews Thomas Mawdsley and wife Lynn and Timothy Martinson and wife Petula and his great nieces and nephew, cousins and numerous friends.

His family will receive friends Monday, January 3, 2022 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the Sheehan Hilborn Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Ave., West Hartford with a funeral service at 11:00 am. Burial will immediately follow at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Masks are required. Online condolences may be made at www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com

Sheehan Hilborn Breen
FUNERAL HOME

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Peroni , Joseph F.



Joseph F. Peroni, 81, formerly of Manchester, went to be with our Lord and Savior on Saturday, December 25, 2021 at Brookdale Assisted Living in West Hartford. He was the beloved husband of the late Sherri (Cologne) Peroni. Joseph was born in Hartford, CT on July 7, 1940 and was the son of the late James and Louise (Doyone) Peroni.

After high school he joined the Marines, got married and had three beautiful children. Joe worked for the State of Connecticut as a correctional officer where he spent many of nights sleeping on duty until his much-awaited retirement. He was an avid bowler at Silver Lanes in East Hartford, he also thought he was an avid fisherman; however, his siblings beg to differ. His main passion was the casino where he helped donate a lot of money! To quote from Frank Sinatra “I DID IT MY WAY”. He leaves behind his three children, daughter Michelle Lopez of Frederickville, MD; sons Joseph Peroni of Rankin County, MI and James (Jimmy) Peroni of Baton Rouge, LA; sister, Teresa Peroni Kilduff of Manchester; brother, James Peroni of Enfield and six grandchildren. His wife Sherri was the love of his life. They are now dancing in heaven to Ray Charles, Seven Spanish Angels.

Joey bag of donuts until we meet again.
A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date private to the family. The Cremation Society of CT has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.cremationct.com

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
JOHN C ‘JACK’ BROADWELL



01/05/36 12/30/19



It’s been 2 long years since Heaven gained our Angel. We are missing you each time we hear your name. We’ve cried many tears and our hearts are Broken just the same. We miss our times together and nothing fills the emptiness now you are no longer here. We have so many precious moments to last our whole lives through. Each reminds us of how much we learned from you and how much we are missing you. LOVE your wife & sons. Josie , Mark , Brian and Gary

In Loving Memory Of
FRANK F CENTINI

01/01/1929- 12/17/2019
Happy Heavenly Birthday.
Miss you so much.
I love you.
Me

In Loving Memory Of
JOHN M FITZSIMMONS



1/25/1933 - 1/1/2021

One year has passed since we had to say good-bye to you. Not a day goes by that we don’t long to hear your voice and listen to your stories. We love you and miss you so very much...Your Loving Family

In Loving Memory Of
KENT F MCKNIGHT



01/1/65- 02/13/11



In memory of your birthday on New, Years Day. You are fully missed. Your thoughtful ness of others cannot be replaced. You are truly missed.
From Mom, sisters, and brother



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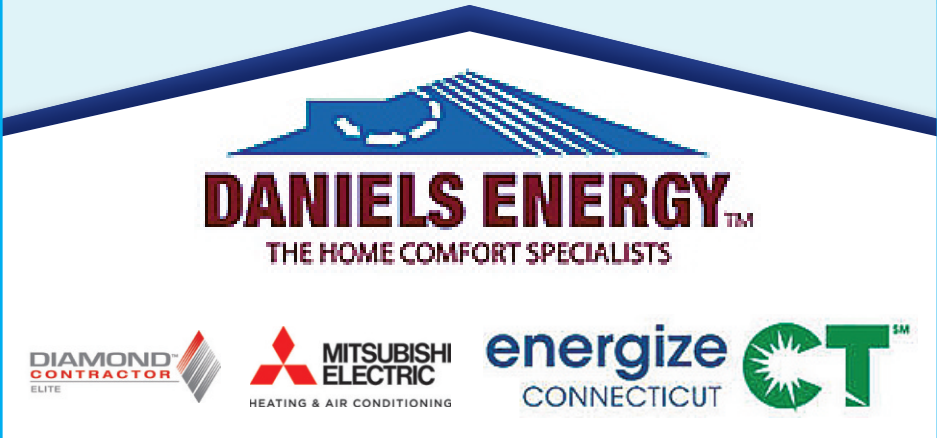
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A couple enjoy the pond at Fischer and Wieser's Das Peach Haus in Fredericksburg, Texas. FISCHER AND WIESER

By Patti Nickell
Tribune News Service

FREDERICKSBURG, Texas — “California has Napa and Sonoma; New York has the Finger Lakes and Texas has Fredericksburg,” said Jesse Barter, owner of Hill & Vine Restaurant as he poured a ruby-hued Tempranillo into my glass.

It does indeed. The Hill Country west of Austin and north of San Antonio includes Texas-sized acreage devoted to wine production, making it the second-largest American Viticultural Area in the U.S.

The Central Texas Hill Country is one of two major wine-producing regions in the state — the other being the Llano Estacado (Staked Plains) in Texas’ northwest-ern corner.

Here in the Hill Country, some 100 wineries dot the landscape along Highway 290, known as the Wine Road, from Fredericksburg to Austin. Fifty of those are in Fredericksburg itself, with 50 more in the permit-ting process.

More about the wines later, but back to Barter and Hill & Vine. When I was there for dinner, the restaurant had been open for three weeks, and if you were lucky enough to snag a reservation at all, the waiting time for a table was often two hours or longer.

The buzzy crowd sipping cocktails while they waited didn’t seem to mind. Yes, the food is that good. Most everything has a Texas twist — the hummus, for exam-ple, contains black-eyed peas. The taco is stuffed with snapper from the

Texas Gulf Coast, while the onion rings use onions from the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas.

I ordered the watermelon and green tomato salad with mint and basil leaves, spiced local pecans and herbed goat cheese with a citrus vinaigrette dressing, and thought it the tastiest salad I have ever had.

That was followed by the smoked Santa Maria tri-tip with smoked chili butter, sea salt, roasted butter-nut squash and Brussels sprouts with a chili salsa. Dessert was croissant bread pudding with bourbon anglaise sauce. You get why people are willing to wait two hours for a table.

Now, back to that award-winning Tempra-nillo. You just know that this being Texas, they wouldn’t be satisfied with a mere medal of excellence, and they didn’t have to be. Hill & Vine’s vintage won a saddle at a wine compe-tition during the Houston Rodeo and Livestock Show, and pardner, that beats a medal any day.

Hill & Vine is just the

latest addition to a remark-ably robust dining scene for a town of 12,000 people. Alas, I didn’t make it to the Granite House or Vaude-ville Bistro, two lauded dining spots, but I did do dinner one night at Otto’s German Bistro.

The German influence is strong in the Hill Coun-try as German settlers were the only ones able to forge a tenuous co-existence with the native Coman-che Indians who ran off others attempting to put down roots. Today, you’ll see examples of German culture everywhere.

The menu at Otto’s transcends schnitzels and sauerbraten to include dishes such as Steelhead Trout and Deep Sea Prawn with green pea puree, sugar snap peas, snow pea shoots and tomato oil, and veal loin with broccolini, mush-rooms, sweet potato puree and almonds.

I did go German and ordered the Wurst Platte (smoked paprika gruyere sausage, German potato salad, house made sauer-kraut and house made spicy

mustard). I was glad I did.

The menu changes weekly, and Otto’s gets most of its ingredients from local, organic or sustainable farms, ranches and fisher-ies.

There’s no dearth of breakfast and lunch options either. Try Caliche Cafe for the former — the Salmon Eggs Benny are to die for. Clear River Ice Cream & Bakery makes a good lunch stop — you don’t have to eat one of their 47 flavors of ice cream for lunch, but you can if you want to.

Finally, don’t miss Das Peach Haus. This multipur-pose facility tempts those in search of shopping, sipping, dining and learning.

The general store sells everything from jams and jellies to chipotle and BBQ sauces. Shoppers can sample peach cobbler or peach cider.

I had dinner there beside a small lake and under a canopy of pine trees more reminiscent of East Texas than the Hill Coun-try, and those wishing for a full dining experience can reserve a table. They

recently opened a distill-ery where you can sample their gin and whiskey, and if you’re interested in cook-ing classes, they are happy to oblige. About the only thing you can’t do is pick the peaches.

Don’t fret. At Jenschke Orchards, you can pick all the plump peaches you want from the 3,000 trees in their orchards. You will have to think of a creative way of getting them home as the orchard doesn’t ship outside of Texas.

A paradise for wine lovers

As strange as it may seem to those who equate the American wine scene with California and Oregon, Texas is one of the country’s leading wine producers, and Fredericksburg ranks right behind Napa as a destina-tion for lovers of the grape.

As for that grape, because of its hot climate, Texas excels in Mediterranean varietals — those found in sultry, steamy southern Spain and Italy.

During a lunch and tast-ing at Signor Vineyards, I tasted some of these

under the expert tute-lage of winery host Andre Boada, whose wine pedi-gree comes courtesy of his Spanish father and French mother. My favorite of the wines Boada poured was an Albareno white, originat-ing in the Galicia Region of Spain, but utilizing Texas grapes.

Signor is one of the Hill Country’s most beautiful wineries. Open only three years, it has become such a popular stop they are adding 40 casitas in the vineyards for overnight guests. Even if you don’t stay overnight, you can sign up for one of Boada’s food and wine classes (Friday and Sunday, \$50).

Two other wineries I highly recommend are Pedernales Cellars and Narrow Path Winery and Vineyards.

At Pedernales, the vine-yards overlook the scenic Pedernales River, and their white wines come mainly from its sister winery in the High Plains around Lubbock. Narrow Path has a tasting room in Fredericks-burg, but make your way to nearby Stonewall to sip in style in their main tasting room overlooking the vine-yard.

If you want to combine wine tasting and shopping, do head for Fredericks-burg’s picturesque main street. At Becker Vineyards, sip a Viognier from their vineyard 12 miles outside of town where, in addition to grapes, 5 acres are given over to lavender fields.

To get your alcoholic intake in a different form, drop by Chocolat, special-izing in liquor and wine-in-fused chocolates.

Fix for family airline seating?

By Ed Perkins
Tribune Content Agency

The issue of family seating on airplanes has been around for several years, and unfortunately it remains “around.” Congress told the Depart-ment of Transportation it should make family seat-ing a “policy,” consumer advocates have been urging action for a long time, and the airlines could easily solve the problem with-out any need for govern-ment intervention. So far, however, neither DOT nor the airlines have made any progress. But I’m hopeful for 2022.

The issue

On most airlines, travel-ers on the cheapest tickets who want to choose seats in advance must either pay extra fees or buy up to a higher class of economy ticket — and maybe, even then, have to pay fees. For adult travelers, that’s not

an unreasonable burden. In exchange for a cheap ticket, they accept whatever seat the airline selects for them at the departure gate. That’s one of the several built-in disincentives to buying those cheap tickets.

But families flying with minor children face a problem. If they don’t pay more — often a lot more — their minor children can be assigned seats apart from any adult family member. And many traveling fami-lies and other travelers view that as an unfair burden.

The burdens

Obviously, families face a burden when a minor child can’t have a seat adjacent to at least one adult family member. The minors are burdened by not having family with them, and adults are burdened by inability to supervise and tend to the minor. But other travelers are burdened, too, when they are seated

next to a minor with no concerned adult, espe-cially if the minor exhibits any behavior problems or anxiety.

Often, an entire plane-load of passengers is burdened. One typical way airlines handle the prob-lem is to have flight atten-dants try to organize seat swaps during the boarding process, entailing depar-ture delays, baggage stor-age confusion, and maybe asking someone who paid extra for a window or aisle seat to exchange for a middle seat to allow for an adult to sit adjacent to a minor.

Safety implications

The problem is not limited to inconvenience and potential delay. In the event of depressurization, nobody is directly responsi-ble for managing a sepa-rated minor’s oxygen mask. Even more troublesome, in the event of a survivable crash, parents trying to

reach a minor several rows away could easily disrupt the time-critical emer-gency evacuation process.

Where it stands

At this time last year, the lame duck DOT was not doing anything about this or any other consumer issue. This year, however, I’m cautiously optimistic. As far as I can tell, today’s DOT is sympathetic to the problem. The current hang-up seems to be find-ing just the right legal basis for making a new rule. Even after it finds the right law, it still has to post a notice of proposed rulemaking and solicit comments from airlines and the general public. For a government bureaucracy, even “warp speed” can be pretty slow.

I remain confounded by the airlines’ refusal to address the problem on their own. They could fix it easily and quickly if they chose to do so. If they don’t,



DREAMSTIME

eventually the government will impose a fix, at which time the airlines will collec-tively whine about “exces-sive regulation.” Go figure.

Likely outcome

My take is that the current DOT actively wants to do something about the problem, and is working diligently to find the right approach. Secre-tary Pete Buttigieg could move it along with a seri-ous jawbone at the airlines to fix their own problems, but absent that, DOT will

ultimately find the path it needs. It has a mandate to regulate “unfair” prac-tices, and it has authority to regulate safety issues, so I believe DOT does, in fact, have the authority it needs. Although my track record at predicting these things isn’t great, I fully expect some effective solution will be in place by the end of 2022. Meanwhile, if you’re flying as a family, you either pay to sit together or risk separation.

eperkins@mind.net

CELEBRITIES

Astley not giving up anything in '22

By Brian Niemiets
New York Daily News

With a big advertising campaign in gear and a U.S. tour on the way, '80s pop star Rick Astley has no plans to give anything up in 2022. But first, he sportingly looked back at the Rickroll phenomenon, which he still finds hard to explain.

The singer, 55, said that he was first Rickrolled — an internet prank where the music video for his 1987 hit “Never Gonna Give You Up” pops up unexpectedly after someone clicks on an email link they think is for something else — when a friend from Los Angeles sent him an email that included the snippet around the time the trend began 15 years ago.

“I didn’t know what a Rickroll was so I thought he was being what he thought was funny, and I sent him a very short email back asking ‘What are you doing?’” Astley recalled.

He notes that at the time, being able to look up old music videos on YouTube at all was less common.

“It was pretty weird honestly, and it took me a while to grasp it,” he said.

It worked out pretty well for Astley. He says a newer generation now knows his music and that it has been good for business. In July, the nearly 35-year-old pop song recorded its 1 billionth YouTube viewing. It also led to Astley’s “New Year New You” RickRok campaign for Frito-Lay, where fans can go online at NeverGonnaGiveItUp.com to talk about things they’re not going to give up, record a duet with Astley using the TikTok social media platform and compete for prizes.

“The way that people have used the internet — for absolutely hilarious things sometimes — has sort of given us an amazing opportunity in the world,”



Rick Astley says a newer generation knows his music thanks to the Rickroll phenomenon. **STUART C. WILSON/GETTY 2018**

Astley said.

Fans are also free to dance in their video duets, though they should be warned that Astley was widely teased for his moves following the music video for “Never Gonna Give You Up.”

“All it was, was pure fear,” he laughed, recalling that video shoot. “Somebody put a video camera and 25 people in a crew in front of me and said ‘Come on son, give it your best shot.’ So I think my dancing was not really dancing. It was a 21-year-old kid with fear running through his veins. That’s all it was.”

Astley said fans can see something that resembles dancing in his RickRock campaign, which kicked off on Christmas Day.

Dancing isn’t the only thing Astley has no plans of giving up. Because the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted everyone’s movements, his New Year’s resolution is to get out and live again. That includes a tour with fellow 1980s acts New Kids On The Block

and Salt-N-Pepa.

“We’ve been through a hell of a couple years, the whole world has,” he said. “The idea of having to give something else up ... you know what I mean?”

While Astley is best known for “Never Gonna Give You Up,” he did score a couple of other hits back in the day. One of those was the song “Together Forever,” which he wouldn’t mind turning into a Rickroll viral sensation, too.

“To be honest, I wish somebody would do that — that’d be pretty cool,” he said with a grin. “But I think it’s a one-song deal.”

Jan. 1 birthdays: Actor Frank Langella is 84. Musician Country Joe McDona-ld is 80. Comedian Don Novello is 79. Actor Rick Hurst is 76. DJ Grandmaster Flash is 64. Actor Renn Woods is 64. Actor Dedee Pfeiffer is 58. Actor Morris Chestnut is 53. Singer Tank is 46. Actor Eden Riegel is 41. Musician Noah Sierota is 26.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Receptionist wants courtesy of co-workers

Dear Amy: I am a receptionist. I love my job, and my co-workers are great.

There is, however, one thing that bugs me.

My desk is in a common area, and co-workers often chat around my desk.

Some of them talk about parties they are going to, which I am not invited to.

I don’t expect to be invited to all the parties — some of them are “team-building parties,” so of course I would not be invited to other teams’ gatherings.

We sometimes all go out to lunch and have the occasional get-together after work, which is nice.

But with the holiday season, they’re talking about a party that I am not invited to, which is definitely a “friends-from-work” party — and not a team-building party.

I think it is rude to talk about parties in front of people who are not invited.

How do I “politely” tell them to stop talking about these gatherings in front of me?

— *Uninvited*

Dear Uninvited: I agree that it is rude to discuss a private gathering in front of someone who has not been invited. Colleagues shouldn’t talk about work at an office party and shouldn’t talk about parties at work.

Friendships form at work, and work friends have every right to enjoy their relationships and to get together outside of the office.

If you have a supervisor you can talk to, you might ask them to gently remind your colleagues that your workstation is public and that they shouldn’t enter-

tain private conversations.

Depending on how well you know these co-workers, you could also handle this yourself — in a light-hearted way, by saying a version of: “Hellooooo, I’m sitting right here.”

Dear Amy: My 6-year-old granddaughter hasn’t been vaccinated because the parents have opposing views, even though they are both fully vaccinated.

I have calmly voiced my opinion by explaining why she needs to be vaccinated.

I say “calmly,” but internally I’m upset and extremely worried.

Are there any strategies to get the one parent to agree to vaccinate the child, or should I stay out of it?

— *Worried Gram*

Dear Gram: In November, I published a heartbreaking account of a previous pandemic, which outlined the terrible risks of transmission of some viruses. I’m reprinting it here.

“My mother died in 1957 in the Asian flu pandemic. I caught the virus at school (I was in kindergarten) and passed it on to her.

“My teacher didn’t know there was at least one student in her classroom who passed it on to me, and perhaps other students. No one was masked.

“I remember being quite sick, and I remember my shock and sadness as a 5-year-old on the morning that my mother died.

“Catching that illness at school created deadly havoc in our home and has haunted me my whole life.

“I’m 69 years old now, and the loss of my mother certainly changed the lives of my sister and our father.

“This COVID-19 pandemic has brought back many memories, and I am a strong advocate of precautions, including masks and vaccines.

“Please continue to emphasize masks and vaccines in your column.

— Reverend Dr. Kay Palmer Marsh”

It’s hard to understand why these parents would choose protection for themselves, but not their child.

The good news for you is that you and the child’s parents are vaccinated and are thus protected from the worst outcome of the disease, should your granddaughter carry the virus home. However, you have already made your case to them.

Stay calm, try not to worry, and if they bring this up, urge them to follow the advice of their child’s pediatrician and the CDC.

Dear Amy: Responding to the heartbreaking letter from “Gutted in Illinois,” who had just gone through an extremely traumatic birth, only to have her mother-in-law refuse to help, you didn’t suggest that her husband should step up. I would encourage anyone else in the situation to call on family members/husband to assist with confrontations and housework!

— *Been There*

Dear Been There: “Gutted” didn’t mention a husband, and I was left wondering if he was on the scene.

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Rae always confident music will assist story

‘Insecure’ featured both emerging and established artists

By Mikael Wood
Los Angeles Times

Before she had a finished script, a committed cast or even a solid sense of where her characters might go, Issa Rae knew that “Insecure” would have a killer soundtrack.

“That was the only thing I was certain of,” says the actor, writer and producer behind the HBO series about a group of young Black women navigating work, romance and friendship in Los Angeles. “In anything I do, I’m very confident that the music will assist the storytelling,” she adds, then laughs. “I’m not always confident in the story itself.”

With “Insecure,” which recently aired its series finale, Rae, 36, wanted to channel the spirit of some of the classic soundtracks of the 1990s, “when music really, really mattered in movies and television shows,” as she puts it. As examples, she points to “Boomerang,” “Soul Food,” “Love Jones” and “Waiting to Exhale.”

Now she’s leaving behind a classic of her own: For five seasons, “Insecure” has showcased what the series’ music supervisor, Kier Lehman, calls “modern alternative R&B,” long on breathy vocals and vibey production that lend valuable emotional detail to the show’s layered storylines. Artists featured on “Insecure’s” several soundtrack albums — as well as an official Spotify playlist with nearly 200,000 followers — have included established acts such as SZA, Thundercat and Jazmine Sullivan, who recorded a steamy duet called “Insecure” with Bryson Tiller for the second season.

Yet the show has also served as a crucial incubator for emerging artists.



Yvonne Orji, left, and creator Issa Rae in “Insecure,” which recently concluded its run after five seasons. **MERIE W. WALLACE/HBO**

“I never get more texts than when my music is on ‘Insecure,’” says TeaMarrr, a singer and rapper. “It’s confirmation that I’m supposed to be here and that I’m doing what I’m supposed to do.”

Rae plans to carry on in music with Raedio, an “audio everywhere company,” as she calls it, that includes a record label (partnered with Atlantic Records) and a music-supervision department that’s at work on an upcoming HBO Max series from Rae’s Hoorae Media about a pair of struggling rappers from Miami.

This interview with Rae has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: What are you most proud of in terms of how “Insecure” has handled music?

A: We highlighted female singers and rappers in a

distinct way when others weren’t — I’m thinking about TT the Artist and Kari Faux in season one. Also the way we put sex scenes and Black lovemaking on the map in a new way. I love adding music to those scenes, deciding which ones will affect how the audience may feel. Episode eight of the last season, I always say that’s my opus because I wanted every song to represent the romanticism.

Q: Does “Insecure” have a signature sound?

A: I’ve heard people say that, and it’s so flattering. They’ll name a song and be like, “This sounds like something that should be on ‘Insecure.’” Such a high compliment.

Q: Was elevating up-and-coming always part of the equation?

A: That was one of the mandates — LA artists,

independent artists. Kier has put me on to so many new artists that I felt get the sound of the show. And then, of course, I do my own digging for people that I love. As a music lover, nothing excites me more than feeling like you’re on to an artist first.

Q: You’ve spent a minute in the music biz now. Does it strike you as a place where good ideas flourish?

A: Absolutely not. It’s probably the worst industry that I have ever come across. I thought Hollywood was crazy. The music industry, it needs to start over. Conflicts of interest abound. Archaic mentalities. Crooks and criminals! It’s an abusive industry, and I really feel for artists that have to come up in it.

Q: Was that a surprise to discover?

A: It was kind of shocking. I don’t want to get too specific, but even in crafting our own deals (for soundtracks) with labels or artists, it would be so convoluted. And finding out how artists were treated at other labels ... Being a creator myself and knowing what I want in terms of a relationship with a production company or a producer, I’d like to think that we’re more artist-friendly than a lot of other labels and companies out there.

Q: The past few years have been big for women in hip-hop and R&B. Does that inspire you?

A: Do I feel inspired? I honestly don’t know. I love the idea that female artists are, in a sense, getting their due, but it still feels like there’s only a very specific type of sound. What really bums me out — and this aligns with Hollywood —

is the way that music is rewarded. When I think about the Grammys and these other systems that are designed to reward artistic creativity and uplift artists, I just feel like, “Y’all don’t get it. What are you reward-ing?”

This is dumb, but I’ll say it anyway: A song like (Wizkid’s) “Essence” — just absolutely a powerhouse, and yet could not be properly acknowledged by the institution that is supposed to celebrate the best in music — that trips me out. To see Black people and our contributions to music not celebrated in the way they should be — I mean, these aren’t institutions for us.

Q: What did you hear in 2021 that you loved?

A: I was so grateful to get new music from Jazmine Sullivan. I’ve really been a fan of Cleo Sol. I liked Don Toliver’s album a lot.

Q: If you’ve been a fan (of Jazmine) for a while, it’s been heartening to see all the acclaim she’s gotten this year.

A: Jazmine — I’m getting chills thinking about her — she’s just literally pure talent. Sadly, I think that’s kind of rare in mainstream music today. That’s what people appreciate — she reminds you of this time when talent was at the forefront. I don’t want to sound like an old head or anything like that, or that I’m dissing anybody, but there’s just something so special about her voice and the relatability of her music.

Q: Does it make you proud to have had her song “Insecure” be such a key musical moment early in the show?

A: Beyond proud. Especially because it had been a while — three or four years at that point — since she had released music. So to be able to have her briefly resurface with a song from our show — I mean, come on. That’s so dope.

These podcasts are on the real-life cases

Here are 6 of best that delve through unsolved mysteries

By Emma Dibdin
The New York Times

Real-life mysteries are the bread and butter of modern podcasting. Seven years ago, “Serial” pushed the format into the mainstream with its gripping reinvestigation of the 1999 murder of Hae Min Lee, a Baltimore high school student, and the questionable conviction of her ex-boyfriend, Adnan Syed. The feverish response to “Serial” was fueled by the seemingly endless ambiguities and questions surrounding the case, many of which remain unanswered to this day. Unsolved mysteries can be frustrating, but they also leave more room for speculation and armchair sleuthing than the ones with tidy endings. In the years since “Serial,” there has been an explosion of shows trying to re-create its appeal by delving into cold cases, disappearances and mysterious events. These are six of the best, offering everything from compelling true-crime journalism to a quirky Hollywood mystery with Tom Hanks at its center.

‘Missing on 9/11’: On the evening of Sept. 10, 2001, a security camera in downtown Manhattan recorded Sneha Anne Philip shopping at Century 21. It was the last time she was ever seen alive. After the 9/11 attacks the following morning, Philip, who was 31, became one of thousands reported missing. Since she was a doctor, her relatives assumed that she had died helping victims at the towers, but this gripping iHeartRadio series reveals a much



IRENE RINALDI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

more complicated picture of her still-unsolved disappearance. Solid information is scarce, but “Missing on 9/11” rarely feels like it’s treading water — in one especially compelling chapter, the host, Jon Walczak, enlists an expert on the art of “pseudocide,” aka faking your own death. The podcast ends abruptly after 10 episodes, and it’s unclear whether more are coming. But if you’re craving more, the same team previously produced “Missing in Alaska,” an equally intriguing show about the vanishing of two congressmen in 1972. *Starter episode: “9/10”*

‘Dead Eyes’: This delightfully low stakes yet emotionally engaging Hollywood mystery is hosted by actor-comedian Connor Ratliff, whom you may recognize from bit parts in shows like “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.” Two decades ago, fresh out of drama school, Ratliff landed a small role in the HBO miniseries “Band of Brothers” alongside Tom Hanks, only to be unceremoniously fired on the eve of shooting. The reason? According to a tactless assistant, it was because Hanks himself watched Ratliff’s audition tape and was put off by his “dead eyes.” Still haunted by this devastatingly specific

critique, Ratliff embarks on an audio quest to figure out if America’s most-beloved actor really hates his eyes, aided by a few famous friends including Jon Hamm, Damon Lindelof and even a few “Band of Brothers” alums. Now in its third season, “Dead Eyes” has evolved beyond its core mystery to become a broader window into the humiliations of Hollywood, which Ratliff plumbs with such affable warmth that you’ll be rooting for him to finally get the answers he craves. *Starter episode: “He’s Having Second Thoughts”*

‘Suspect’: This coproduction from Wondery and Campside Media centers

on the unsolved 2008 murder of Arpana Jinaga, a 24-year-old software engineer who was found dead the morning after a raucous Halloween party at her apartment complex near Seattle. That gathering provides a wide array of suspects, all of whom are investigated in this absorbing, emotional 10-episode series. Ultimately, the police do home in on one chief suspect, but that conviction proves to be deeply flawed. “Suspect” uses its central case to explore the dizzyingly rapid evolution of DNA technology, as well as racial bias in the justice system. *Starter episode: “The Halloween Party”*

‘Unexplained’: Instead of dedicating several episodes to a single case, “Unexplained” tackles a new logic-defying event every week. Leaning more toward the paranormal than criminal, this British series makes for reliably spooky listening, in part because Richard MacLean Smith, the host and creator, resists the urge to ham it up. Over the course of six seasons, Smith has delivered episodes on the true story behind the “Exorcist,” the fate of a ghost ship in the Dutch East Indies, an apparent alien abduction in the north of England, a family being terrorized by a poltergeist and the chilling ongoing saga of the “Havana syndrome,” which has seen numerous CIA employees in Cuba fall sick with debilitating neurological symptoms in recent years. *Starter episode: “Valleys of the Uncanny”*

‘Someone Knows Something’: The sheer volume of murder mystery podcasts out there can feel overwhelming, but this anthology series from the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. is a consistently

rigorous, intelligent gem. The host, David Ridgen, was a filmmaker and documentarian before he created “Someone Knows Something,” and his flair for character-driven storytelling is evident, as is his ambivalence about “true crime” as a genre (the series begins with a prologue in which Ridgen admits to being wary about making it at all). Each season chronicles a different cold case, beginning with the 1972 disappearance of 5-year-old Adrien McNaughton. The third season focuses on the devastating story of Charles Moore and Henry Dee, two Black men whose murders in 1964 by Ku Klux Klan members resulted in no convictions for more than 40 years. The fourth follows a family’s search for answers after a man is murdered by a mail bomb sent to his house. Whichever season you choose to begin with, you’ll likely be hooked. *Starter episode: “The Wrong Body”*

‘Unsolved Mysteries’: It’s been more than 30 years since the first iteration of the docuseries “Unsolved Mysteries” first aired on television, offering up re-enactments of cold cases, conspiracy theories and paranormal encounters. The formula has remained largely unchanged through multiple reboots — on Lifetime, more recently on Netflix and now in an equally addictive podcast format. Although it’s narrated by Steve French instead of Robert Stack, who was the long-standing host of “Unsolved Mysteries,” the show is an otherwise faithful audio rendering of the franchise, featuring weekly half-hour mysteries full of ghost stories, disappearances, demonic possessions and more. *Starter episode: “Where’s Alicia?”*

MUSIC

Bela Fleck comes back to bluegrass on two-disc album

By George Varga
San Diego Union-Tribune

A 15-time Grammy Award winner, banjo master Bela Fleck excels in such a dizzying array of styles — from bluegrass, folk and jazz to classical, country and world music — that it was fitting when he named “Vertigo” the opening number on his captivating new album, “My Bluegrass Heart.” Then, reality threw him an unexpected curve ball. “I actually got vertigo after writing the song, which was not fun,” Fleck said. “I thought it was a funny song name, but it’s not funny anymore.” He chuckled wryly at the memory of his thankfully short-lived vertigo experience. “I only had it once, for about a week.” As knotty in melodic and rhythmic construction as its title suggests, “Vertigo” kicks off Fleck’s first bluegrass album in 20 years. The two-disc “My Bluegrass Heart” is dedicated to guitarist Tony Rice and jazz composer Chick Corea, who passed away in December 2020 and February 2021 respectively. He collaborated with each and still pinches himself that he did. “I couldn’t have wanted anything more, or thought it more unlikely,” said Fleck. “And to get to play as much and to become the kind of friends we became and get to play as much as we did is one of the great joys of my life.” “My Bluegrass Heart” features an array of Fleck’s longtime musical partners, including Tony Trischka, David Grisman, Edgar Meyer and Jerry Douglas. What makes “My Bluegrass Heart” doubly notable is that it also showcases such rising young instrumental stars as guitarists Billy Strings and Molly



Bela Fleck, seen with Abigail Washburn in 2016, has released “My Bluegrass Heart.” ALLEN J. SCHABEN/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Tuttle, mandolinist Sierra Hull and violinist Michael Cleveland. The multigenerational lineup provides a vital musical continuum on an album that celebrates the skill and imagination of its participants. “I had a lot of the tunes for a long time and was trying to figure out who should play on this and who should play on that,” Fleck said. “Then I started earmarking specific things. So, when I knew Billy and Sierra were coming to record, I thought: ‘I have to give them something for their personalities to shine through on.’ So, I added more to those tunes, I needed to make sure it was challenging for those guys in the right way.” Had all gone according to plan, Rice would also have performed on “My Bluegrass Heart.” The recording of the album was completed just prior to the pandemic shutdown. But Rice was a no-show, largely because of his failing health. Fleck, who had envisioned Rice as a key contributor to the album, was understandably dismayed. His spirits lifted after he pivoted to Bryan Sutton, a nine-time

International Bluegrass Music Association Guitar Player of the Year honoree who has performed on albums by Taylor Swift, Eric Church and more. Fleck’s artistic scope long ago transcended bluegrass. But it is still one of his early musical foundations, even if he has turned away from it for extended periods to pursue other stylistic approaches. The music on “My Bluegrass Heart” is crafted to celebrate the genre’s traditions at the same time it twists and extends them. That combination of reverence and daring, of pushing forward while saluting the past, has long been one of Fleck’s trademarks. “My goal to take the bluegrass out of banjo and the banjo out of bluegrass has gone pretty well,” said Fleck, who is married to fellow banjo ace Abigail Washburn. “And I’ve been able to make a living and keep my idealistic view about the music I make, which I consider to be a pretty resounding success. “I feel very, very fortunate and still love what I get to do. But with bluegrass, we all come back to it. You have it in your blood, and you want to come back to it.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): You might be considering whether or not your career path is in line with what you really value. Consider that the best way to advocate for an important cause is not always the most direct way. Take some time to plan a subtler approach.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Checking in with a long-time commitment of yours could make it obvious that you’ve grown and changed a lot over the past few years. While the awkwardness of the encounter could surprise you, your friends may still be able to guide you through it. They can help you find a new community that fits you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): You may sense that you are held back by something outside of your view. Digging into the mystery will probably be worthwhile! Though you may have avoided this task in the past because it seemed difficult, you’re currently well positioned to make some discoveries.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Getting to know some of your acquaintances better as individuals could be a worthy goal for you this year. Someone like that might turn into a very intellectually stimulating connection, even if the environment where you usually connect with them has a different vibe.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

In 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Reflecting on how you’ve grown professionally over the past few years could be inspiring for you today. Building habits that work better for you might require you to clarify your boundaries with others whose are intertwined with yours. You may fear disturbing the peace.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learning some new techniques could help you get more pleasure out of a hobby. You may have resisted this step in the past. However, if you can identify something that’s necessary to learn so you can move onward, you may be able to find a new teacher who’s a good fit for you right now.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There may be some big issues surrounding the financial side of your home or family life that you need to deal with soon, and the hardest part could be deciding where to start such an overwhelming task! Today, at least, you can try to begin sketching out a plan.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Improving your relationships might be a goal for you at this time, and you may be thinking about increasing your flow of conversation with someone significant to you. Be wary of heavy topics. The best way to build intimacy at this point might just be having fun together!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have an eye for what needs to improve in your life today. Approaching the situation from a place where you feel secure should help you make better decisions. There has to be at least one thing, however small, that’s going well for you now! Focus on positives.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Respecting yourself will help you know where the correct communication limits are. If you want people to know the real you, opening up more in your conversations could help. Strike the right balance. While you may be tempted to start by dropping your boundaries, do your best to stay focused.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may feel worn out. Put yourself in an environment where you can openly express hidden parts of yourself. You could be surprised by how vigorous you feel when you free up the energy you formerly used to hold things back. The investment could be well worth it!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): New friends could be attracted to your good nature today. You’re likely presenting yourself quite well at this time, which can draw people to you seemingly out of nowhere. To keep them with you for a while, work to maintain a healthy give and take between the two of you.

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car.

In 1954, NBC broadcast the first coast-to-coast color TV program as it presented live coverage of the Tournament of Roses Parade.

In 1959, Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista.

In 1985, the music cable channel VH-1 made its debut with a video of Marvin Gaye performing “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

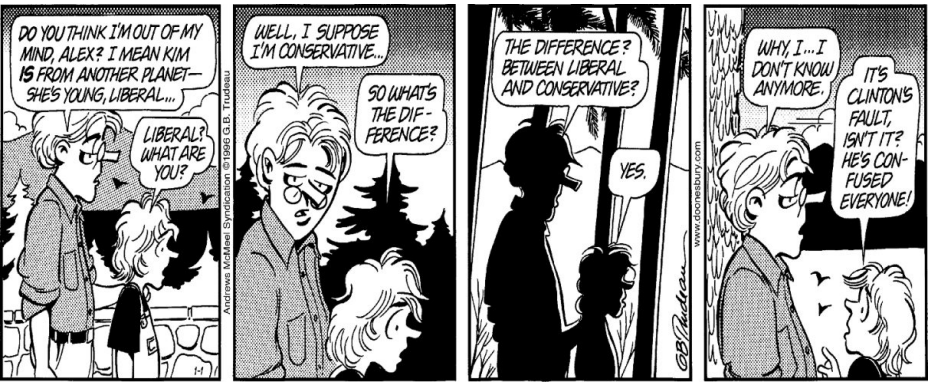
In 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully split into two new countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

In 2014, the nation’s first legal recreational pot shops opened in Colorado.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



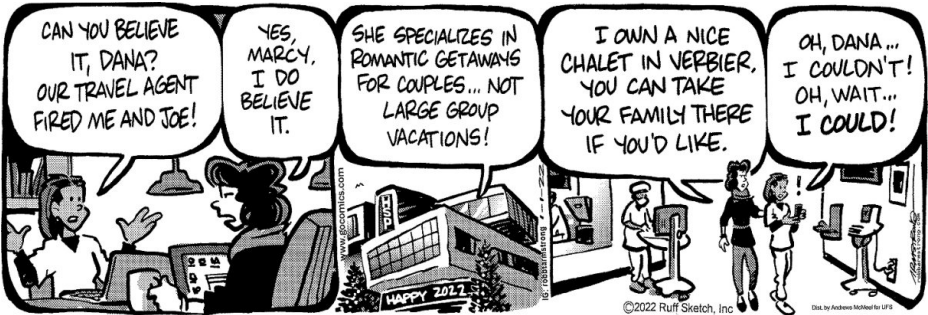
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



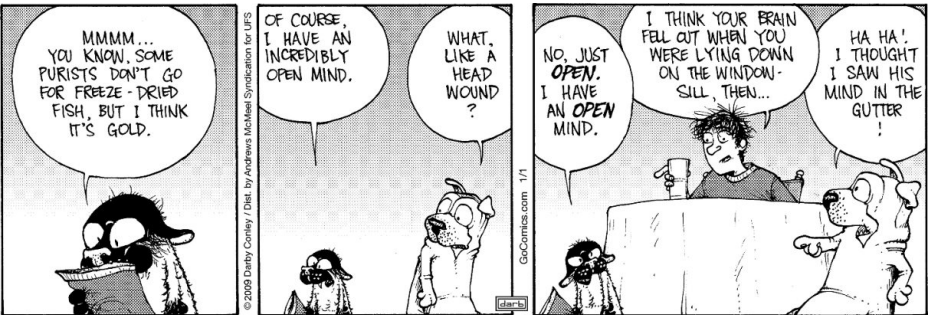
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



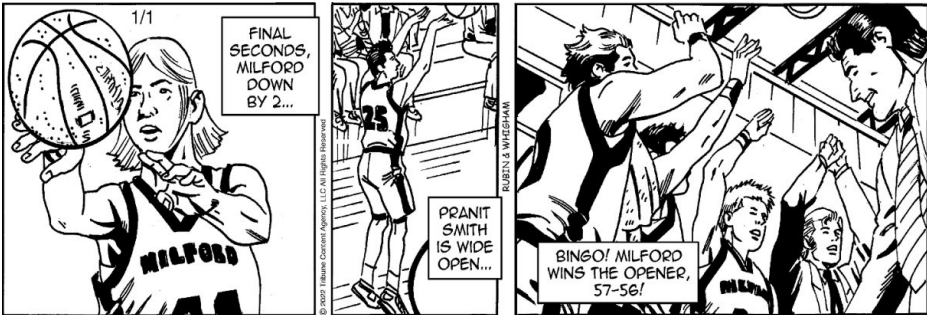
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



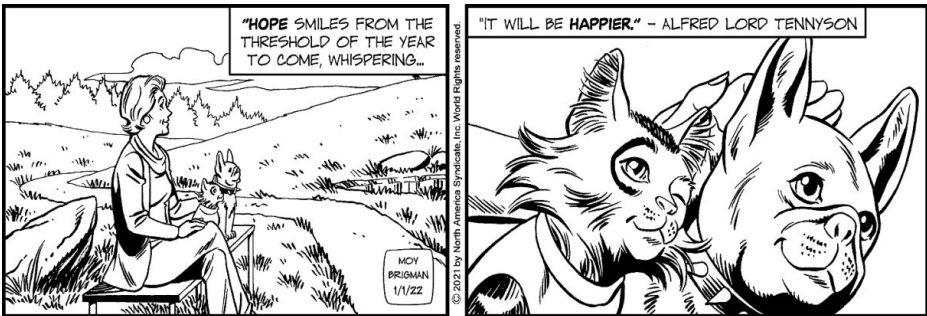
Dilbert By Scott Adams



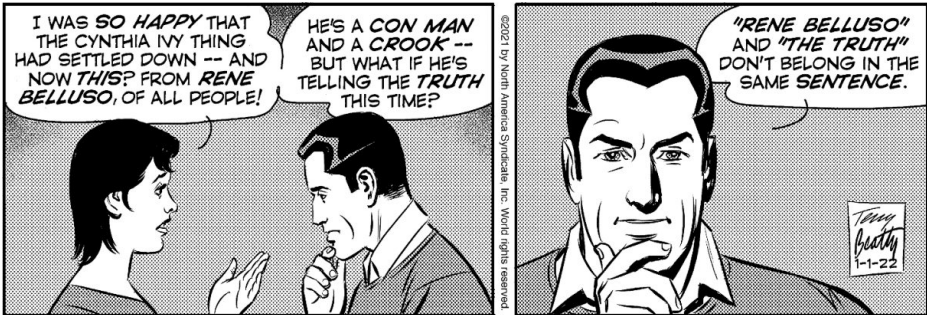
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



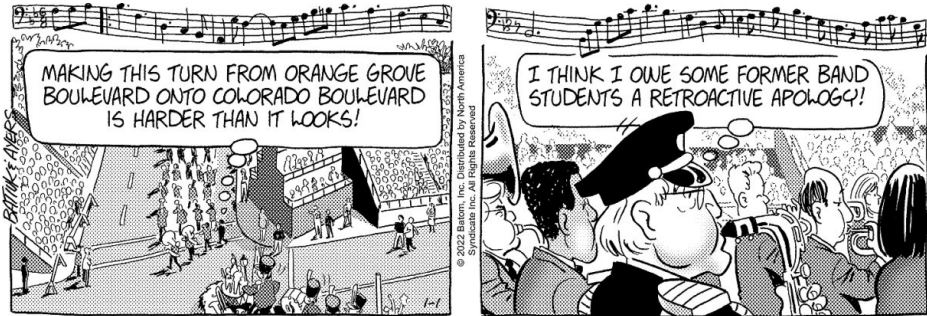
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



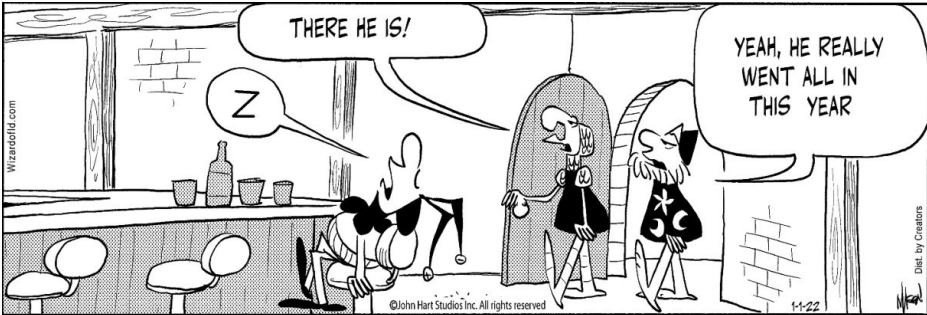
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



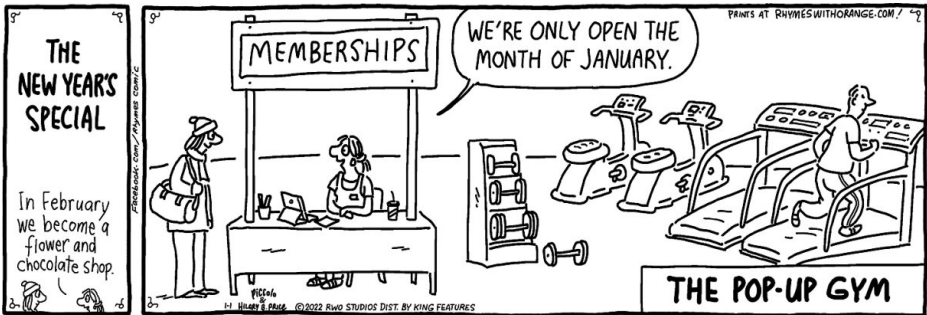
Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY

Following Mom's skates

Ansonia's Jess Schryver helping Quinnipiac reach new heights

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

Jess Schryver grew up with hockey in her DNA. That comes from her mother.

"She has an older brother and she would get really excited to watch him play," Susan Schryver said, "and she would always say, 'I want to play,' and I really didn't want her starting that young. She was about 4 1/2. So I told her we'll buy a piece of equipment every month and when you have all your equipment you can start. Of course, she made be buy it quicker and

started sooner than anticipated. You could tell it was in her blood."

Susan grew up in West Haven, a town well-known for its hockey, offering chances for girls to play before many other places. In the 1970s, she joined Conlan's All-Stars, one of the few hockey programs for girls in the region, often having to travel out of state to play. She went on to play hockey and soccer at Providence College, long before there was even an NCAA Tournament for women's hockey.

Her daughter, Jess, is now one of the top players at Quinnipiac,

ranked fourth in both the USA Today and the U.S. College Hockey Online polls.

The Bobcats (15-1-2) play at No. 1 Wisconsin (17-1-1) on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

"Jess is almost everything I wasn't," Susan said. "She's known as a playmaker, she helps her teammates, and her skill level is just so above what my skill level was. It's such a pleasure to watch her and all the other girls who play the sport. They have brought the sport to a whole new level, things we

Turn to Hockey, Page 2



Jess Schryver greets young fans at a recent home game. Schryver, of Ansonia, has become a leading player for the fourth-ranked Quinnipiac women's hockey team. **ROB RASMUSSEN/COURTESY**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF ALABAMA 27, CINCINNATI 6



Alabama wide receiver Ja'Corey Brooks gets past Cincinnati safety Bryan Cook to score on a catch in the first half of the Cotton Bowl College Football Playoff semifinal game Friday in Arlington, Texas. **JEFFREY MCWHORTER/AP**

A familiar sight

No. 1 Alabama shuts down Cincinnati to win sixth straight semifinal

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Brian Robinson Jr. ran for a career-high 204 yards and top-ranked Alabama rolled into yet another national championship game by physically overwhelming the first non-Power Five team to make the College Football Playoff.

Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young threw three touchdown passes while mostly avoiding

Cincinnati's standout cornerbacks as the Crimson Tide beat the Bearcats 27-6 in the CFP semifinal at the Cotton Bowl on Friday. It was the sixth semifinal victory in a row for the Crimson Tide.

Alabama (13-1) has missed the four-team playoff only once and will try to win its second national title in a row and fourth in the eight seasons of the CFP format. The Crimson Tide will play either No. 2 Michigan or No. 3 Georgia, the previously undefeated team

Alabama beat for the SEC title, in the national title game Jan. 10 in Indianapolis.

"I'm really, really proud of our team, our players. I think they showed great competitive character out there," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "Guys showed a lot of resiliency all year, to be able to have the opportunity to get to this game. They showed a lot of resiliency ... played together as a team. Everybody kind of had each other's back."

Inside
Friday's other bowl scores. **Page 3**

Alabama clearly was doing what it could to minimize the impact of cornerbacks Ahmad Gardner and Coby Bryant, and pretty much succeeded with Robinson rushing 26 times and Young throwing a lot of short, safe passes — though he did find

Turn to CFP, Page 2

SAM JONES 1933-2021

Celtics Hall of Famer who won 10 titles dies at 88

By Jimmy Golen
Associated Press

BOSTON — Basketball Hall of Famer Sam Jones, the Boston Celtics' "Mr. Clutch" whose sharp shooting fueled the league's longest dynasty and earned him 10 NBA titles — second only to teammate Bill Russell — has died, the team said. He was 88.

Jones died Thursday night in Florida, where he had been hospitalized in failing health, Celtics

Inside
Celtics stun Suns, 123-108. **Page 2**

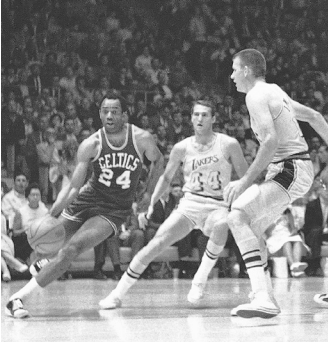
spokesman Jeff Twiss said.

"Sam Jones was one of the most talented, versatile, and clutch shooters for the most successful and dominant teams in NBA history," the team said in a statement. "His scoring ability was so prolific and his form so pure, that he earned the simple nickname, 'The Shooter.' The Jones family is

in our thoughts as we mourn his loss and fondly remember the life and career of one of the greatest champions in American sports."

The Celtics paused for a moment of silence before Friday afternoon's game against the Phoenix Suns, showing a video tribute on the screen hanging among the championship banners above the parquet floor at the TD Garden. His No. 24, which was retired by the Celtics

Turn to Jones, Page 2



Celtics guard Sam Jones drives past the Lakers' Jerry West (44) in the NBA Finals on May 2, 1968. Jones died Thursday at 88. **AP FILE**

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Wednesday's game at Georgetown called off

Cancellation due to COVID-related issues is the third this season

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

The UConn women's basketball team is now facing its third canceled game since returning from its holiday break, as Wednesday's game at Georgetown has been called off due to ongoing COVID-19 issues in the Huskies' program.

Fans who had bought tickets for the game at Washington, D.C.'s Entertainment and Sports Arena were first alerted of the cancellation via Ticketmaster early Friday afternoon, and the conference announced the news shortly after.

Two other conference games for the Huskies — against Marquette (Dec. 29) and DePaul (Dec. 31) — were canceled earlier in the week, the former due to COVID-19 issues in the Golden Eagles' program and the latter due to issues in the Huskies' program.

According to Big East policy, games will be canceled if a team cannot field at least seven players and one countable coach. The conference will attempt to reschedule those games, otherwise they'll be counted as no contests.

Per UConn, those who purchased tickets for this game will be issued full refunds within the next five business days, and if the game is rescheduled, those individuals will have priority access for tickets on the makeup date.

The Big East has had eight women's basketball game cancellations since the holidays, with Marquette, Providence, Georgetown and Butler also dealing with COVID-19 issues, and has yet to announce rescheduled dates for any of them.

The Huskies only had eight available players going into the holiday break, as Paige Bueckers, Nika Mühl, Azzi Fudd and Aubrey Griffin were all out with injuries, and Saylor Poffenbarger and Mir McLean transferred from the program midseason.

Mühl and Fudd appeared to be closest to making their returns, with coach Geno Auriemma optimistic they could play after the holidays, but their current status is unclear. If they were not yet fully healthy, it wouldn't take many positive cases among players for the Huskies to have to cancel games.

UConn's next scheduled game is Friday at Villanova. The Huskies last played Dec. 19 against Louisville, losing 69-64.

Happy New Year

All of us at RisCassi & Davis wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

Patriots: Jaguars, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Giants: at Bears, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: Buccaneers, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: at Seton Hall, Jan. 8, noon; St. John's (Gampel), Jan. 12, 8:30 p.m.; at Providence, Jan. 15, 2 p.m.
UConn WBB: at Villanova, Friday, 7 p.m.; Creighton, Jan. 9, 1 p.m.; at Butler, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
Celtics: Magic, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Spurs, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Knicks, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: at Raptors, Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; Pacers, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Celtics, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: Clippers, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Grizzlies, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; Pacers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Harvard, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Bruins: Sabres, Saturday, 1 p.m.; at Red Wings, Sunday, 1 p.m.; Devils, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: Lightning, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.; Oilers, Monday, 7 p.m.; at Golden Knights, Thursday, 10 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Rochester, Sunday, 3 p.m.; at Rochester, Friday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASKETBALL
Noon: Memphis at Wichita State. (Live) CBS
Noon: North Carolina at Boston College. (Live) ACC
Noon: West Virginia at Texas. (Live) ESPNU
Noon: Creighton at Marquette. (Live) FS1
2 p.m.: Villanova at Seton Hall. (Live) CBS
2 p.m.: Louisville at Georgia Tech. (Live) ACC
2 p.m.: Western Kentucky at Louisiana Tech. (Live) CBSSN
2 p.m.: Baylor at Iowa State. (Live) ESPNU
3 p.m.: Providence at DePaul. (Live) FOX
4 p.m.: San Diego State at UNLV. (Live) CBS
4 p.m.: Florida State at NC State. (Live) ACC
4 p.m.: Boise State at Wyoming. (Live) CBSSN
6 p.m.: Wake Forest at Miami. (Live) ESPNU
6:30 p.m.: Pelicans at Bucks. (Live) NBA
7:30 p.m.: Clippers at Nets. (Live) YES
8 p.m.: Virginia at Syracuse. (Live) ACC
8 p.m.: Kansas State at Oklahoma. (Live) ESPNU
9 p.m.: New Mexico at Nevada. (Live) FS1
9 p.m.: Warriors at Jazz. (Live) NBA
BOXING
5 p.m.: PBC Fight Night: Ortiz vs. Martin - Undercard. (Live) FOX
FOOTBALL
Noon: Outback Bowl Penn State vs Arkansas. (Live) ESPN2
1 p.m.: Citrus Bowl Iowa vs Kentucky. (Live) ABC
1 p.m.: Fiesta Bowl Oklahoma State vs Notre Dame. (Live) ESPN
5:10 p.m.: Rose Bowl Utah vs Ohio State. (Live) ESPN
8:45 p.m.: Sugar Bowl Baylor vs Ole Miss. (Live) ESPN
HOCKEY
1 p.m.: Sabres at Bruins. (Live) NESN
2 p.m.: Oilers at Islanders. (Live) NHL
7 p.m.: Blues at Wild. (Live) TNT
SOCCER
7:30 a.m.: Premier League Arsenal vs Manchester City. (Live) USA
10 a.m.: Premier League Watford vs Tottenham Hotspur. (Live) USA
12:30 p.m.: Premier League Crystal Palace vs West Ham United. (Live)

REGIONAL DIGEST

Bruins shut out Wolf Pack

Jesper Froden gave Providence the lead 4:57 into the game, and the Bruins kept up the pressure to beat the Wolf Pack 4-0 on Friday afternoon at the XL Center in Hartford. Froden scored into an empty net after a perfect pass from Oskar Steen on a power play. Steen made it 2-0 at 19:36 of the first period, blasting in a one-timer for his team-leading 10th goal of the season. Urho Vaakanainen and former Wolf Pack captain Steven Fogarty assisted on the goal. Fogarty extended the lead to 3-0 at 11:44 of the middle frame, beating Pack goalie François Brassard. Just under three minutes later, at 17:25, Cameron Hughes scored a shorthanded goal to close the scoring. Troy Grosenick made 17 saves for his first shutout as a member of the Bruins.



The Celtics' Jaylen Brown drives to the basket against the Suns' Devin Booker on Friday afternoon in Boston. MARY SCHWALM/AP

CELTICS 123, SUNS 108

Boston ends 3-game skid with rout

By Doug Alden
Associated Press

BOSTON — Jaylen Brown and Marcus Smart each scored 24 points as the Boston Celtics stopped a three-game slide by topping the Phoenix Suns 123-108 on Friday afternoon. Brown also grabbed 11 rebounds and Smart finished with eight assists, helping the Celtics bounce back from a 91-82 home loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night. Robert Williams had 10 points, 10 assists and 11 rebounds, and Josh Richardson added 19 points. The Celtics were without leading scorer Jayson Tatum, who was placed on the health and safety protocols list early in the week, but Smart returned and the offense responded by shooting 54%. Seven Celtics scored in double figures. “We played some great basketball down the stretch,” Brown said. “We played with a nice flow and a nice identity. It made the game so much

easier.” Devin Booker scored 22 points for Phoenix, and Cam Johnson had 20. Jalen Smith scored 19 and Chris Paul finished with 14 points and eight assists. The Suns remained without starters Deandre Ayton and Jae Crowder, who missed their third straight game because of health and safety protocols. Coach Monty Williams was also on the protocol list for the third game in a row. The Suns (27-8), who entered with the top record in the NBA, lost for the third time in four games. Kevin Young, who is coaching Phoenix while Williams remains out, said the Suns weren’t physical enough to keep the Celtics from rolling early. “I thought the biggest difference was we got much more physical in the second half. They were the more physical team in the first. Some of those cuts, we just let them go where they wanted to go,” Young said.

Boston (17-19) was coming off a dreadful shooting performance, making just 4 of 42 3-pointers against the Clippers. The Celtics jumped all over the Suns, shooting 58% in the first half and leading by as much as 30 points. Boston closed out the first quarter on an 18-6 run and outscored Phoenix 35-21 in the second period, taking a 67-41 lead into halftime. “To be down 30, it has to be a little bit of both — not defending and stagnant offense,” Booker said. “They were switching actions, which slowed us down, and getting easy layups and wide-open 3s to start the game.” Boston made 10 of 27 3-pointers in the New Year’s Eve matinee. The Suns were 3 for 15 on 3-pointers in first half. They started faring better from outside in the second half, but it was too late to make much of a dent in Boston’s lead. Back-to-back 3-pointers by Paul and Ish Wainwright early in the fourth only got Phoenix back within 15, still down 106-91.

Jones

from Page 1

in 1969 while he was a still an active player, also was displayed on the monitor in the hushed arena before a still photo of him in a suit and the words “Sam Jones 1933-2021.” “Another one of my dear friends lost,” Celtics broadcaster Cedric Maxwell tweeted. “Well, the banks are open in heaven this #NYE.” Often providing the offense while Russell locked things down at the other end, Jones averaged 17.7 points over 12 seasons. The number went up in the postseason, when he averaged 18.9 points and was

usually the No. 1 option for the game’s final shot for the teams that won 10 titles from 1959-69. “We never flew first class in my 12 years of playing basketball,” Jones told Associated Press this fall in an interview for the league’s 75th anniversary. “But we always won NBA championships.” In 1964, Jones was a member of the NBA’s first starting lineup to include five Black players, joining Russell, Tom “Satch” Sanders, K.C. Jones and Willie Naulls. Although coach Red Auerbach maintained he was thinking only of his best chance to win, the lineup broke with an unwritten rule that pressured teams to have at least one white

player on the floor. Sam Jones, a North Carolina native who served two years in the Army before returning to college, told the AP that the NBA of the 1960s was little different than the segregated South where he grew up and went to school. “I’m fighting for the freedom of everybody here in the United States. And when I come back, I still got to fight for my freedom,” Jones said. “Something is wrong with that, and has always been and is happening even today.” Using a bank shot that was unconventional even then, Jones came to be known as “Mr. Clutch” after a series of game-winners, including a buzzer-beater

to clinch the 1962 Eastern Conference finals. He hit an off-balance, wrong-footed jumper to win Game 4 of the 1969 Finals; instead of heading to Los Angeles trailing 3-1, the Celtics tied the series against the Lakers at two games apiece and went on to win in seven. Jones retired after that title, having won his 10 championships in 12 seasons. A five-time All-Star, he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1984. Jones was named to the NBA’s 25th, 50th and 75th anniversary teams. His death comes a year after teammate Tommy Heinsohn and 13 months following the death of K.C. Jones.

Hockey

from Page 1

never even fathomed when I played.” Jess and her three brothers grew up in Ansonia, a town best known for football, but by the time Jess was growing up, there were more opportunities in hockey, more to aspire to. Quin-nipiac coach Cass Turner first saw Schryver play as a 13-year-old and was already impressed with her vision on the ice. Schryver played at Loomis Chaffee in Wind-sor, where she was twice the team MVP and reached USA Today All-America status. She chose Northeast-ern, perennial Hockey East power, where Schryver was one of the top freshmen in the conference, with six goals and 19 assists in 2019-20, but Boston wasn’t for

her; she wanted to be back in Connecticut. “When COVID hit, I wasn’t planning on transferring out of Northeast-ern,” she said, “until we had those few months off and I just realized I wasn’t happy at Northeastern. I’d just kind of gotten used to being unhappy. I took that year off to decide what I wanted to do.” Schryver, 5 feet 7, who has three years eligibility including this season, has proved to be a difference-maker in the strong program Turner has built over the last seven seasons. Schryver has three goals and 10 assists, a plus-11 for her time on the ice. “She’s a quiet person,” Turner said, “and I am so excited to have someone like her, who I can just see her coming out of her shell and gaining confidence and really, truly feel comfortable being herself. I see it

day in and day out. She feels at home, and that is a huge and important piece to her being as successful as she is on the ice.” The Bobcats’ record includes two ties against Providence, a top 10 team, a road win at No. 5 Colgate and wins over Yale, ranked sixth, and UConn, just outside the top 10, in the Nutmeg Classic in November. On break since Nov. 27, Quinnipiac, which has been ranked as high as second in its history, has a chance to vault to the top of the rankings now. “We’re both excited and confident,” Schryver said. “We believe we can win both games. We’ve been working hard this whole season. I think we’re in a good place.” Top scorer Sadie Peart has six goals and 12 assists, Taylor House has four and 13, and Lexie Adzija has four and 12. Kendall Cooper and Zoe Boyd have been main-

stays on defense, and goal-ies Corinne Schroeder (0.80 goals against) and Logan Agers (1.48) have been stellar. “We need to keep putting ourselves in positions to play top-end programs,” Turner said, “to prove there isn’t a difference between us and the WCHA, to believe we can beat any team in the country. That’s the biggest step we need to take. That’s why we wanted Wisconsin on our schedule.” The Badgers, the defending champs, and Minnesota have the most champion-ships, six each, since the women’s NCAA Tournam-ent began in 2001. This season the tournament will expand from eight to 11 teams, giving Connecti-cut a chance to have three

CFP

from Page 1

Ja’Core Brooks for a 44-yard catch-and-run TD on a play away from the standout defenders for a 17-3 lead just before halftime. “As a young kid, just always wanted to be a part of this program. Just always wanted to play for a national championship,” said Robin-son, the fifth-year senior from Tuscaloosa in his first season as the featured back. “Just being able to go out there and just lead this team in this big game on this big stage ... it’s like a dream come true.” The Crimson Tide opened the game with 10 consecu-tive runs before putting three receivers opposite of Gardner, who hasn’t given up a TD in coverage in his college career. Young found Slade Bolden open in the left flat for an 8-yard TD pass that put Alabama ahead to stay.

With their own dynamic quarterback in Desmond Ridder, the NFL prospect who returned for an extra season for just this chance, the Bearcats (13-1) were the nation’s only undefeated team until facing the playoff standard bearer. “Obviously this is gut-wrenching and really, really difficult for every-body, but most importantly for the 30 or so seniors that have brought this program and this team so far,” Bear-cats coach Luke Fickell said. Cincinnati’s breakthrough into the four-team playoff was bolstered by a win the first Saturday of October at Notre Dame. The Fight-ing Irish, who lost 31-14 to Alabama in a CFP semifinal Rose Bowl played at AT&T Stadium last New Year’s Day, didn’t lose another game this season and finished fifth in the final CFP rankings behind the history-making Bearcats.

Ridder was sacked six times and outside of a 9-yard run on the opening play of the second half never got to hurt Bama with his feet. He was 17 of 32 passing for 144 yards. “It’s one thing to sit there and watch on film, and to sit there and draw the twists and stunts they do on the board and work it through prac-tice,” Ridder said. “It’s another thing to come down here and play it on a big stage.” Young, a 20-year-old sophomore, has a chance to become the fifth Alabama quarterback in 13 seasons to win a national title as a first-year starter. He completed 17 of 28 passes for 181 yards in the playoff game, four weeks after setting an SEC championship game record with 421 yards passing in a win over Georgia and three weeks after being the first Crimson Tide QB to win a Heisman Trophy.

entries. The Frozen Four will be played March 20-22 at Penn State. “Women’s college hockey gets better every single year,” Schryver said. “When I was at Northeastern my freshman year, I would say there were eight to 10 teams that were absolutely solid, where anyone could win the game. Now, I think that has increased to 15 or 20 teams.” The Bobcats have proved they belong among those teams, as Schryver has found she belongs at Quinnipiac. “She’s thrilled to be at Quinnipiac,” Susan Schryver said, “and we’re thrilled that she’s there. The fact she is so happy, she has found a home there.”

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com.



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SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Tampa Bay	32	21	7	4	46	106	93			
Florida	31	20	7	4	44	117	93			
Toronto	30	20	8	2	42	98	76			
Detroit	31	15	13	3	33	88	104			
Boston	26	14	10	2	30	71	69			
Buffalo	32	10	17	5	25	86	112			
Ottawa	28	9	17	2	20	79	101			
Montreal	33	7	22	4	18	71	118			
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Carolina	30	22	7	1	45	99	62			
Washington	32	19	6	7	45	113	84			
N.Y. Rangers	31	19	8	4	42	89	81			
Pittsburgh	30	17	8	5	39	91	76			
Philadelphia	31	13	12	6	32	82	100			
Columbus	29	15	13	1	31	95	98			
New Jersey	32	12	15	5	29	92	113			
N.Y. Islanders	27	9	12	6	24	61	78			

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
St. Louis	32	18	9	5	41	110	87			
Minnesota	30	19	9	2	40	112	92			
Nashville	32	19	11	2	40	95	88			
Colorado	27	17	8	2	36	115	91			
Winnipeg	30	14	11	5	33	90	87			
Dallas	29	15	12	2	32	82	85			
Chicago	30	11	15	4	26	72	97			
Arizona	30	6	21	3	15	63	117			
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Vegas	34	22	12	0	44	123	102			
Anaheim	34	17	10	7	41	105	94			
Calgary	29	16	7	6	38	93	66			
Edmonton	31	18	12	1	37	108	100			
San Jose	32	17	14	1	35	89	94			
Los Angeles	32	15	12	5	35	85	86			
Vancouver	33	15	15	3	33	84	93			
Seattle	32	10	18	4	24	90	117			

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
New Jersey 6, Edmonton 5 (OT)
Vegas 3, Anaheim 1
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, late
Washington at Detroit, late
Pittsburgh at Ottawa, ppd
Colorado at Dallas, ppd
Winnipeg at Calgary, ppd

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Buffalo at Boston, 1p.m.
Carolina at Columbus, 1p.m.
Montreal at Florida, 1p.m.
Chicago at Nashville, 2p.m.
Edmonton at N.Y. Islanders, 2p.m.
Ottawa at Toronto, 7p.m.
St. Louis vs. Minnesota at Target Field, 7p.m.
Vancouver at Seattle, 10p.m.
Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 12:30p.m.
Boston at Detroit, 1p.m.
San Jose at Pittsburgh, 1p.m.
Anaheim at Colorado, 3p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 3p.m.
Winnipeg at Vegas, 4p.m.
Calgary at Chicago, 7p.m.
Dallas at Arizona, ppd

MONDAY'S GAMES
Edmonton at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Carolina at Toronto, ppd
Minnesota at Ottawa, ppd

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Carolina 4, Montreal 0
Florida 9, Tampa Bay 3
Columbus 4, Nashville 3 (SO)
N.Y. Islanders 4, Buffalo 1
Calgary 6, Seattle 4
San Jose 3, Philadelphia 2 (OT)
Los Angeles 2, Vancouver 1 (SO)

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
Toledo	1	at Kent State	
Villanova	1	at Seton Hall	
at Wright State	10½	Green Bay	
at N. Kentucky	5½	Milwaukee	
at La. Tech	5½	W. Kentucky	
Baylor	7½	at Iowa State	
at Oakland	10	Youngstown St.	
at Tex-Arlington	2	Troy	
at UAB	21½	UTSA	
Providence	1	at DePaul	
at Montana St.	12½	Idaho State	
at St. F. Austin	14½	Lamar	
Ohio	14	at W. Michigan	
at Appalachian St	5	at La-Monroe	
E. Washington	3	at N. Arizona	
at Wyoming	1	Boise State	
at Fresno State	15½	Air Force	
San Diego St.	3	at UNLV	
at FAU	3	Old Dominion	
at Utah Valley	4½	Tarleton	
Florida State	3	at NC State	
at CS Bakersfield	5½	Long Beach St.	
at Arkansas State	3½	Cal. Southern	
at Texas State	2	S. Alabama	
at SE Missouri St.	2½	Austin Peay	
at Kansas	20	George Mason	
Bowling Green	2½	at Ball State	
at Miami	1½	Wake Forest	
at North Texas	9½	Rice	
at Syracuse	3½	Virginia	
at New Mexico St.	23½	Chicago State	
at Cincinnati	10	Tulane	
at Oklahoma	8	Kansas State	
at St. Mary's (Cal)	4	San Francisco	
at Oral Roberts	18	Omaha	
at Montana	1	Weber State	
at Southern Utah	6½	N. Colorado	
at Nevada	11	New Mexico	
Ablene Christian	9	at Dixie State	
at UC-San Diego	8	CS Northridge	
at Oregon	5	Utah	

NBA	FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	SATURDAY	UNDERDOG
at Milwaukee	11½	(219½)	New Orleans		
at Detroit	(off)	(off)	San Antonio		
at Washington	E	(214½)	Chicago		
at Brooklyn	11	(213½)	LA Clippers		
at Houston	(off)	(off)	Denver		
at Utah	4½	(221½)	Golden State		

NHL	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	SATURDAY	LINE
at Boston	-326	Buffalo	+256		
at Florida	-408	Montreal	+319		
Carolina	-163	at Columbus	+134		
at Nashville	-169	Chicago	+143		
at NY Islanders	-117	Edmonton	-104		
at Minnesota	-127	St. Louis	+106		
at Toronto	-267	Ottawa	+217		
at Seattle	-112	Vancouver	+107		
at Los Angeles	-156	Philadelphia	+134		

COLLEGE FOOTBALL	FAVORITE	SP	O/U	SATURDAY	UNDERDOG
Outback Bowl					
Penn State	2½	(48)	Arkansas		
Fiesta Bowl					
Notre Dame	2½	(45½)	Oklahoma St.		
Citrus Bowl					
Kentucky	3	(44)	Iowa		
Rose Bowl					
Ohio State	4½	(64)	Utah		
Sugar Bowl					
Mississippi	1½	(55½)	Baylor		
Texas Bowl					
LSU	1	(47)	Kansas State		

NFL WEEK 17	FAVORITE	SP	O/U	SUNDAY	UNDERDOG
Philadelphia	4½	(45)	at Washington		
at Buffalo	14½	(44)	Atlanta		
at Chicago	6	(37)	NY Giants		
Kansas City	4½	(51)	at Cincinnati		
at Indianapolis	7	(44½)	Las Vegas		
at New England	16½	(41½)	Jacksonville		
Tampa Bay	13	(45½)	at NY Jets		
at Tennessee	3½	(39½)	Miami		
LA Rams	5½	(46)	at Baltimore		
at LA Chargers	7½	(45)	Denver		
at San Francisco	12½	(44)	Houston		
at Seattle	7½	(41½)	Detroit		
at Dallas	6	(51½)	Arizona		
at New Orleans	6½	(38)	Carolina		
at Green Bay	13½	(42½)	Minnesota		

SUPER BOWL LV CHAMPION	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
Green Bay	4-1	Kansas City	4-1
Tampa Bay	15-2	Buffalo	9-1
Dallas	9-1	LA Rams	9-1
Indianapolis	16-1	New England	16-1
Arizona	20-1	Tennessee	20-1
Cincinnati	28-1	San Francisco	33-1
Baltimore	50-1	LA Chargers	50-1
Philadelphia	65-1	Miami	80-1
Cleveland	150-1	Las Vegas	150-1
Minnesota	150-1	Pittsburgh	150-1
New Orleans	200-1	Atlanta	500-1
Denver	500-1	Washington	500-1

For the latest odds, go to [FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/](https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/)

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB		
Brooklyn	23	10	.697	—		
Philadelphia	19	16	.543	5		
New York	17	18	.486	7		
Boston	17	19	.472	7½		
Toronto	14	17	.452	8		
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB		
Miami	22	13	.629	—		
Charlotte	19	17	.528	3½		
Washington	18	17	.514	4		
Atlanta	15	19	.441	6½		
Orlando	7	29	.194	15½		

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	23	10	.697	—
Milwaukee	24	13	.649	1
Cleveland	20	15	.571	4
Indiana	14	22	.389	10½
Detroit	5	28	.152	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	22	14	.611	—
Dallas	17	18	.486	4½
San Antonio	14	19	.424	6½
New Orleans	13	22	.371	8
Houston	10	25	.286	11½

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	25	9	.735	—
Denver	17	16	.515	7½
Minnesota	16	18	.471	9
Portland	13	21	.382	12
Oklahoma City	12	22	.353	13

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Golden State	27	7	.794	—
Phoenix	27	8	.771	½
L.A. Clippers	18	17	.514	9½
L.A. Lakers	17	19	.472	11
Sacramento	15	22	.405	13½

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Boston 123, Phoenix 108
Chicago 108, Indiana 106
Dallas 112, Sacramento 96
Miami at Houston, late
Atlanta at Cleveland, late
L.A. Clippers at Toronto, late
New York at Oklahoma City, late
San Antonio at Memphis, late
Minnesota at Utah, late
Portland at L.A. Lakers, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
New Orleans at Milwaukee, 6:30p.m.
Chicago at Washington, 7p.m.
San Antonio at Detroit, 7p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Denver at Houston, 8p.m.
Golden State at Utah, 9p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 110, Cleveland 93
Philadelphia 110, Brooklyn 102
Milwaukee 136, Orlando 118
Golden State at Denver, ppd

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
No. 1 Baylor (12-0) did not play. Next: at No. 8 Iowa St., Saturday.
No. 2 Duke (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Tuesday.
No. 3 Purdue (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 24 Wisconsin, Monday.
No. 4 Gonzaga (11-2) did not play. Next: at Loyola Marymount, Saturday.
No. 5 UCLA (8-1) did not play. Next: at Stanford, Thursday, Jan. 6.
No. 6 Kansas (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. George Mason, Saturday.
No. 7 Southern Cal (12-0) did not play. Next: at California, Thursday.
No. 8 Iowa St. (12-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 Baylor, Saturday.
No. 9 Arizona (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Washington, Monday.
No. 10 Michigan St. (11-2) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Sunday.
No. 11 Auburn (12-1) did not play. Next: at South Carolina, Tuesday.
No. 12 Houston (11-3) did not play. Next: at Temple, Sunday.
No. 13 Ohio State (8-2) did not play. Next: at Nebraska, Sunday.
No. 14 Tennessee (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi, Wednesday.
No. 15 Seton Hall (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 22 Villanova, Saturday.
No. 16 LSU (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 8 Kentucky, Tuesday.
No. 17 Texas (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. West Virginia, Saturday.
No. 18 Kentucky (11-2) beat High Point 92-48. Next: at No. 16 LSU, Tuesday.
No. 19 Alabama (10-3) did not play. Next: at Florida, Wednesday.
No. 20 Colorado St. (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Air Force, Tuesday.
No. 21 Providence (12-1) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Saturday.
No. 22 Villanova (8-4) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Seton Hall, Saturday.
No. 23 Xavier (11-2) did not play. Next: at Butler, Friday.
No. 24 Wisconsin (10-2) did not play. Next: at No. 3 Purdue, Monday.
No. 25 Texas Tech (10-2) did not play. Next: at No. 8 Iowa St., Wednesday.

FRIDAY'S SCORES
EAST
Babson 70, Amherst 59
Bryant 85, Sacred Heart 82
CCSU 67, St. Francis (NY) 55
Fair, Dickinson 70, St. Francis (Pa.) 62
Merrimack 82, LIU 77
Quinnipiac 77, Niagara 68
SOUTH
Delaware 67, Coll. of Charleston 66
E. Kentucky 106, Alice Lloyd 52
Ferrum 79, Brevard 66
Kentucky 92, High Point 48
Liberty 91, Boyce 60
New Orleans 94, Belhaven 54
William & Mary 71, Northeastern 70
Wingate 90, SC-Aiken 86, 2OT
Winthrop 78, Converse Valkyries 40
SOUTHWEST
Cent. Ark. 119, Champion Christian 47
Schreiner 87, St. Thomas (Texas) 85
Texas A&M-CC 101, Sul Ross St. 49

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
No. 1 South Carolina (12-1) did not play. Next: at No. 19 LSU, Thursday.
No. 2 Stanford (8-3) at Washington, ppd. Next: at Washington St., Sunday.
No. 3 Louisville (11-1) did not play. Next: at No. 16 Georgia Tech, Sunday.
No. 4, Arizona (10-1) at USC, ppd. Next: vs. Washington State, Friday.
No. 5. NC State (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 24 North Carolina, Thu.
No. 6. Maryland (10-3) did not play. Next: at No. 8 Indiana, Sunday.
No. 7. Tennessee (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas, Sunday.
No. 8. Indiana (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6 Maryland, Sunday.
No. 9. Michigan (12-1) beat No. 25 Ohio State 90-71. Next: vs. at Nebraska, Tuesday.
No. 10. Baylor (10-2) did not play. Next: at Kansas St., Sunday.
No. 11. UConn (6-3) at DePaul, ppd. Next: at Georgetown, Wednesday.
No. 12. Texas (9-1) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma St., Sunday.
No. 13. Georgia (11-2) did not play. Next: at Florida, Sunday.
No. 14. Iowa St. (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. West Virginia, Sunday.
No. 15. Duke (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 Notre Dame, Sunday.
No. 16. Georgia Tech (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 Louisville, Sunday.
No. 17. Notre Dame (11-2) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Duke, Sunday.
No. 18. BYU (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Portland, Saturday.
No. 19. LSU (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 23 Texas A&M, Sunday.
No. 20. Kentucky (7-3) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi St., Monday.
No. 21. Iowa(6-3) did not play. Next: vs. Evansville, Sunday.
No. 22. South Florida



Winner: The 2022 Ford Maverick Hybrid XLT and 2L-EcoBoost AWD Lariat. **FORD**

Fresh, feisty, affordable

Reviewer names Ford Maverick his pick for vehicle of the year

By Henry Payne
The Detroit News

News that Dodge is burying its iconic Hellcat models sent a shiver through the auto market this fall as enthusiasts fear a wave of cookie-cutter electric vehicles in the decade ahead. Government scolds are in the driver's seat — are we doomed for a repeat of “That ’70s Show”? Happily in 2021, the auto menu is a feast of flavors.

Consider the year saw the introduction of everything from the V-8-powered, 668-horsepower Cadillac CT-5 Blackwing to the battery-powered, 1,020-horsepower Tesla Model S Plaid. Automotive purists got manual toys from the \$28K Subaru BRZ to the \$138K Porsche 911 GT3. Even the pickup market saw an explosion in diversity with rookies like the entry-level Ford Maverick and electric Rivian R1T.

The sudden growth of pickups beyond the usual light-duty workhorses dovetailed with the SUV revolution that has washed over the U.S. market in the past 10 years. Volume SUV segments saw upgrades from familiar names like Jeep Grand Cherokee, Nissan Pathfinder and Jeep Wrangler, as well as new kids like Volkswagen ID. 4 and Genesis G70. Americans escaped to the great, socially distanced outdoors in the adventurous Ford Bronco and Jeep Wrangler 4xe — as well as new trim lines like Subaru Wilderness.

My 2021 Vehicle of the Year winners:

Third place: Tesla Model S

Yeah, I know, it starts at \$91,190 and is out of reach for most of us. But the Model S has been the most influential car of the past decade and the 2022 model is its first major reboot since the OG wowed in 2011.

After Tesla's success, other companies remade their business models (see Cadillac and Jaguar) to go all-electric. But Tesla's secret sauce is more than battery power. The Model S remade the luxe space with fresh design, big screens and performance. The '22 model

continues Tesla's relentless effort to re-imagine the automobile.

The new Model S interior echoes its Model 3/Y siblings with a landscape-oriented, 17-inch infotainment display that includes everything from Autopilot self-driving controls to streaming channels to watch while you're recharging at the brand's cross-country network of Superchargers (the only way to travel EV).

The already minimalist interior gets more so by deleting steering wheel turn signal and shift stalks. Shifting is done via swipe on the big screen while the turn signal is integrated into the vehicle's signature feature, a steering wheel yoke. No joke. Toyota is already following Tesla by adapting a yoke of its own for the forthcoming bZ4X EV.

I tested the \$134K Model Plaid, which takes the car's already superhuman performance to another level: 2-second zero-60 mph launches, cornering grip greater than a Corvette C8. Its 1,020-horsepower, tri-motor drivetrain propels the car to acceleration speeds greater than even the legendary, \$3 million Bugatti Chiron supercar — for 20% of the price and 50% more seats.

Runner-up: Volkswagen Golf GTI

The original hot hatch, the Golf GTI has been my baseline for best all-around vehicle. Fun to drive, fuel-efficient, seating for five, hatchback utility — all for an affordable price. Like the Tesla, Golf GTI has reset the bar again with its 2022 model update.

The exterior is updated with sharp stampings and thin headlights — an industry trend as designers love to play with their new LED tools. For my money, the V-dub outclasses its Audi S3 cousin. The car's performance is more engaging than the Audi's (with which it shares a platform) thanks to its manual transmission option and hatchback.

The manual bonds driver to machine and there are few experiences more engaging than rowing the Golf over a twisty road. Drivers who prefer automatics will enjoy the GTI too, with its optional “chiclet” shifter right out of a Porsche.

The interior is the real game-changer as VW has brought in twin digital screens with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Honda



Runner-up: The 2022 Volkswagen Golf GTI. **DANIEL BYRNE/VOLKSWAGEN**



Third place: The 2022 Tesla Model S Plaid. **HENRY PAYNE**

also introduced an all-new Civic Si this year that is an even more affordable pocket rocket than GTI — but the Golf's hatchback utility trumps the Civic sedan's standard trunk.

Winner: Ford Maverick pickup

With average prices hovering around \$40,000, affordable new vehicles are an endangered species. Say hello to the terrific \$21k Maverick.

Not only is the compact pickup a tasty appetizer for Ford's sprawling truck menu, it's the entry-level vehicle in Ford's lineup. And the \$21,490 model is no stripped starter.

It comes standard with hybrid drivetrain, 500-mile range, 191 horsepower, cool steel wheels, smartphone connectivity and clever interior.

It's a Swiss Army knife for the urban do-it-yourselfer with a roomy interior and capable of carrying 1,500 pounds of mulch in its 4.5-foot bed (the same size as, ahem, an electric, \$70K Rivian R1T pickup).

Need more oomph? Upgrade to the 250-horsepower,

2.0-liter turbo-4 engine that can tow 4,500 pounds.

If it's an Olympic weightlifter you want, buy a ladder-frame F-150 truck, but you can't park big brother easily in a downtown parking spot.

Built south of the border on the same unibody platform as the Bronco Sport and Escape SUVs, Maverick is fun to drive around town and on the open road.

The rear seat can be flipped up, revealing all kinds of sub-storage thanks to its flexible frame. Get the sub-seat organizer — part of a \$50 five-pack of gadgets for the rear seat console including cord wrap, cupholder, grocery bag holder and trash bin.

The Maverick is now the third SUV-based pickup in the U.S., and automakers will be watching the wee Ford closely to see if the king of ladder-frame trucks can also sell the unibody variety. Early signs are that customers are biting.

Alas, the affordable Maverick is not immune from chip shortages. Model year 2022 Mavericks are sold out and new orders will not be filled until next summer.

Honda makes enthusiasts drool with the racy 2023 Civic Type R teaser

By Henry Payne
The Detroit News

One of 2022's most anticipated cars is the Honda Civic's Type R performance model. Honda whetted enthusiasts' appetites with camouflaged, teaser photos of the hot hatch undergoing development at the Suzuka Formula One race track in Japan. The striptease doesn't leave much to the imagination.

The 2023 Type R takes the 11th generation Civic's

conservative styling and adds a big rear wing, swollen rear fenders for fatter tires, center tri-tailpipes, and bigger front grilles to feed the turbocharged beast within. The current-generation Type R makes an impressive 306 horsepower and 295 pound-feet of torque from its 2.0-liter turbo-4 engine and the new-gen model is expected to update the formula.

In defiance of the SUV trend, the compact 2022 Civic sedan was the sixth

best-selling non-pickup vehicle in America in the first nine months of 2021, according to Car and Driver. The new Type R will likely be built in Indiana alongside the Civic Sport hatchback after Honda discontinued production in Swindon, England, earlier this year. The move would continue to cement Honda as one of the Midwest's biggest manufacturers. The Japanese company already produces the

number 2 best-selling SUV in America, the CR-V, in East Liberty, Ohio, and the Accord sedan in nearby Marysville. Some 95% of Honda's U.S.-sold vehicles are made in North America.

The 10th-generation car, manufactured from 2017-2021, was a wild sculpture of wings, splitters and scoops. Car and Driver wrote that the exterior looked like “a disheveled knife drawer,” and the new generation tones down the wardrobe significantly.



The 2023 Honda Civic Type R is distinguished by bigger grilles to feed air to its high-horsepower engine. **HENRY PAYNE**



The 2022 Kia Carnival. KIA MOTORS

REVIEW

Kia Carnival is an impressive minivan with a crossover look

By Larry Printz
Tribune News Service

Sometimes, you just need a minivan. SUVs can't match them when comes to their sheer volume, particularly for chores like carting four full-size suitcases and two carry-ons, not to mention two parents about to take their first post-pandemic vacation. That's a lot, but the 2022 Kia Carnival minivan can handle my parents' frequent changes of clothing. And it does so with a heavy dose of style.

The 2022 Kia Carnival replaces the Sedona in Kia's lineup, and comes on strong with a boxy crossover look that seems right at home alongside the incredibly popular Kia Telluride. Even twenty-something valets seem to like it, and who would have thought they'd be impressed by a minivan?

But it's hard not to be captivated, for it's clear that Kia did its homework. Offered in ascending LX, EX, SX and SX Prestige trim, the Carnival wears styling details that help you forget what you're driving, such as the crisp lines on the clamshell hood, the flashy side window trim, and rear skid plates. But there's no mistaking it once you climb inside.

The SX Prestige that Kia provided for a weeklong test drive was generously equipped, and carried a base price of \$46,100, a

2022 Kia Carnival

Base price: \$32,100
Engine: 3.5-liter DOHC V6
Horsepower/torque: 290/262 pound-feet
EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 19/26 mpg; observed: 22 mpg
Fuel required: 87 Octane
Length/width/height: 203/78.5/69.9 inches
Ground clearance: 6.8 inches
Payload: 1,440 pounds
Cargo capacity: 40.2-145.1 cubic feet
Towing capacity: 3,500 pounds

\$14,000 premium above the \$32,100 base model. Heated front seats are standard on all but the LX, where they're optional. Second and third row heated seats are standard on the SX Prestige. As you might expect, base models are covered in cloth, while EX and SX models have fake leather. The SX Prestige gets the real thing. All Carnivals come with an 8-inch touch screen display with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, which is wireless when the dual rear screen package is offered. Built-in Wi-Fi and wireless charging are also offered, although there are up to nine USB ports and two 110-volt outlets. And it's filled with thoughtful touches that parents will appreciate. A rear occupant alert

system employs ultrasonic sensors that alerts you if a child, person or pet remains in rear seats after you've shut off and locked the vehicle. There's also an in-cabin intercom for conversing with those in the rear. You can also keep an eye out for what's happening back there, thanks to an in-cabin camera that includes night vision. As you'd expect with a family hauler, there's a generous array of standard safety gear, including forward collision avoidance assist, blind-spot avoidance assist, rear cross-traffic collision avoidance assist, parking distance warning, lane keeping assist, high beam assist, and driver attention warning. If there's one thing that needs changing, it's the rear tailgate. A beep sounds when it's open, and keeps beeping annoyingly until you close it. This is safety overkill and exasperating. But overall, the Carnival is a big improvement from the Sedona, thanks to its sharp looks, spacious interior, good performance and up-to-date tech. It's so good, in fact, you may not even mind that it's a minivan. Larry Printz is an automotive journalist based in South Florida. Readers may send him email at TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com.

Where's my hybrid's battery?



Bob Weber
Motormouth

Q: Wife had a 2010 Prius and we got stranded twice and needed a new starting battery. She now has a 2018 Kia Niro hybrid and I want to replace the starting battery but can't get an answer from Kia customer service or several dealers as to if the Niro hybrid even has a starting battery. If it doesn't have one, what starts the gas engine? — J.C., Key Largo, Florida
A: All hybrid vehicles have a 12-volt battery. It not only starts the internal combustion engine, but it also powers the accessories. Starting in 2017, Kia installed a lithium-ion battery instead of a traditional lead-acid battery under the rear seat.

Q: Recently I had the oil changed in my 2017 Avalon. My receipt indicated five quarts of synthetic oil. The owner's manual calls for six quarts. The dipstick showed full, but I added a half quart of oil just to be safe. Can you explain this? — D.M., Evanston, Illinois
A: Did they change the filter? The old filter could hold residual oil. Or, perhaps, they installed six quarts and only charged for five. Was it your birthday?

Q: I have a 2020 Mazda CX-9 with a G 2.5 Turbo engine. At 12,000 miles I experienced engine lurching when stopped. The dealer made the warranty repair, which included "Clean EGR and reprogram PCM" (quoting from my invoice here), and the car has run fine since. But upgrading to 93-octane gas was



All hybrid vehicles have a 12-volt battery. DREAMSTIME

recommended, quite an unpleasant surprise, especially with the rising price of gas. I'm now paying \$1 more a gallon for gas. — R.P., Clarendon Hills, Illinois

A: We checked the owner's manual for your car, and it states the 87-octane gas is the juice to use. Don't waste your money on high-priced gasoline that keeps getting priced higher. You got some bad intel from whoever suggested using premium gas.

Q: My son is frustrated by the problem he is having with his 2000 Honda CRV. It does not start and when we jump start it and take it to various mechanics, no one seems to be able to solve the problem. We have had the battery replaced and checked repeatedly, to no avail. The Honda dealer that we took the car to suggested that he dump this car and buy a replacement, after charging \$82 for a so-called analysis. — H.G., Northfield, Illinois
A: First, I suggest you take the car to one of the major parts stores where they will do a battery and charging system analysis for free. (Yeah, they hope you will need a battery, but won't lie to you.) If everything checks out, have a pro mechanic look for weak connections, especially a weak

ground connection from the battery. Also check for dirty battery terminal connections. Currently, car prices — especially used — are out of sight.

Q: I only use premium gas for my lawn tractor, leaf blower and two of our cars. I add Sta-Bil to my summer car and lawn tractor; the other gas equipment I run dry. I have used approximately one-half the bottle of Sta-Bil for winterization of 2020/21 and 2021/22. Will Sta-Bil degrade between now and the fall of 2022? — J.E., Chicago
A: It does not last forever. In fact, there is space on the back label for you to write in the date you opened the bottle. Gold Eagle (the maker of Sta-Bil) says on their website: "An opened, but tightly capped, bottle of Sta-Bil fuel stabilizer is effective for about two years."

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



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WEATHER

SATURDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly cloudy with areas of morning fog, showers around. South wind around 5 mph.

HIGH 52°

LOW 44°

SUNDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers, breezy.

HIGH 53°

LOW 24°

MONDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Morning clouds, some afternoon sunshine developing, very breezy and much colder.

HIGH 31°

LOW 20°

TUESDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly sunny and breezy.

HIGH 39°

LOW 28°

WEDNESDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly cloudy and seasonably mild.

HIGH 46°

LOW 32°

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WEATHER

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YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

OUTLOOK

A low pressure system crossing Pennsylvania will cause mostly cloudy skies and showers on Saturday. There will be areas of fog, mainly in the morning, as a result of a south wind off the Long Island Sound. Temperatures will be unseasonably mild with highs in the low to mid-50s. It will remain mild on Sunday along with the chance for scattered showers. Morning clouds on Monday will gradually give way to a partly sunny afternoon sky. It will be very breezy and much colder with highs in the upper 20s to the lower 30s. Sunshine and breezy on Tuesday.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal	
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.06	0.12	
Month to date	2.95	4.08	
Total this year	54.94	47.05	
Snowfall In Inches	Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.4
Total this year	4.2	12.2	

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches

Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	7:33 a.m. 7:59 p.m.	1:28 a.m. 2:27 p.m.	43°
Saybrook Jetty	8:44 a.m. 9:10 p.m.	2:21 a.m. 3:20 p.m.	43°
Connecticut River at Portland	11:27 a.m. 11:53 p.m.	6:07 a.m. 7:06 p.m.	43°
Madison	9:04 a.m. 9:40 p.m.	2:43 a.m. 3:30 p.m.	43°
New Haven	9:24 a.m. 10:00 p.m.	3:07 a.m. 3:54 p.m.	43°
Stamford	9:28 a.m. 10:04 p.m.	3:21 a.m. 4:08 p.m.	45°

River Stage at Hartford: 5.04 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W Showers	L.I. Sound E Showers	B.I. Sound Showers
Wind	S, 5-10	S, 5-10	S, 10-15
Seas	1 ft.	1 ft.	2-4 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Friday	49 at 1:22 p.m.	42 at 9:23 a.m.
Normal for date	37	21
Record for date	65 in 1965	-15 in 1917
A year ago	43	30
Range this year	99	1

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Dec 31	1807	2172	1957

30-day Temperature History

Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	29.97 at 10 a.m.	29.92 at 12 a.m.
Dew point	45° at 6 p.m.	41° at 12 a.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND Bangor 42 31 SH Burlington 44 28 SH Caribou 39 19 C Concord 43 34 SH Montpelier 40 29 SH Mt. Wash. 34 25 SH Portland 42 34 SH Woods Hole 51 44 SH NATION Albany 50 36 SH Albuquerque 35 13 SF Atlantic City 57 53 R	Baltimore 61 53 R Bismarck -1 15 PC Boise 14 9 S Buffalo 47 29 SH Charleston 81 62 PC Cincinnati 49 32 SH Cleveland 50 28 R Indianapolis 83 61 PC Jacksonville 49 29 S Las Vegas 81 74 PC Miami Beach 28 17 C Milwaukee 28 17 C	Nashville -1 15 PC New Orleans 55 51 R New York 43 13 I Okla. City 10 -7 SN Omaha 83 62 PC Orlando 59 42 R Pittsburgh 76 64 C Raleigh 41 19 R St. Louis 23 10 PC Salt Lake City 85 34 PC San Antonio 63 47 PC San Diego	San Juan 84 72 PC Tucson 56 32 SH WORLD Amsterdam 57 46 SH Athens 63 48 S Bangkok 86 70 S Beijing 84 72 S Beirut 43 19 S Berlin 66 55 C Bermuda 54 46 SH Buenos Aires 72 65 PC Budapest 58 37 C Cairo 93 75 T Cancun 65 49 PC Cebu 85 73 PC Chicago 35 19 C Dallas 70 24 SH Denver 15 33 SF Detroit 39 25 C Dubai 57 46 SH Edinburgh 25 24 S Helsinki 50 46 R Hong Kong 54 48 SH Istanbul 50 46 R Jerusalem 54 48 SH Johannesburg 77 61 T London 57 54 C Madrid 63 39 S Mexico City 75 49 S Milan 48 36 PC Montreal 39 19 R Moscow 32 16 SN Nassau 84 68 S New Delhi 70 41 PC Paris 55 48 C Prague 57 39 C Rio de Janeiro 17 73 T Rome 59 43 C Seoul 36 28 S Singapore 84 73 T	Stockholm 30 21 PC Sydney 84 70 PC Tel Aviv 69 48 PC Tokyo 46 32 S Toronto 41 23 SH Vancouver 32 32 SF Warsaw 46 32 SH
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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: at Villanova, 7 p.m., SNY

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Jan. 8: at Seton Hall, noon, FOX

UConn

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THURSDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Others				
BERLIN 52, KILLINGLY 39				
KILLINGLY (O): Ella Lach 2-1-5, Emma Carpenter 1-4-6, Hannah Grudzien 4-0-8, Sophia Moore 4-4-12, Makala Dube 1-0-2, Alla Gutierrez 1-1-3. Totals 14-10-39.				
BERLIN (O): Jenna Wenzel 5-0-12, Eva DesMarais 0-1-1, Maddy Sadowski 2-0-4, Clare McGeever 3-3-11, Emma Ellison 2-0-4, Alivia Halkias 0-1-1, Kailee DeMaio 9-1-19. Totals 21-6-52.				
K	8	8	10	13
B	15	13	11	52

[b]Holiday Tournaments/[b]
[b]Canton/[b]
FARMINGTON 46, CANTON 45
CANTON (1-4): Jenna Cuniowski 4-1-10, Sophia Mates 3-3-10, Avery Brown 4-4-15, Gabby DelSanto 3-0-7, Avery Miller 1-1-3, Sam Yanke 0-0-0. Totals 15-9-45.
FARMINGTON (3-1): Daria Fournier 3-3-7, Mackenzie Campbell 1-2-4, Abby Bertollette 6-0-12, Abby Finn 1-0-2, Reshma Paleniel 2-0-6, Sarah Bertollette 3-1-7, Anna Loughman 1-2-4. Totals 17-8-46.

C	16	13	6	10
F	10	15	13	8

WRESTLING
SCC
BRANFORD 55, HAND 10
Others
XAVIER 70, ELLIS TECH 12
KILLINGLY 69, SUFFIELD/WINDSOR LOCKS 12

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC-Inter
MIDDLETOWN 90, ROCKY HILL 77

FRIDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL
NCCC
EAST WINDSOR AT SMSA, PPD.

BOYS HOCKEY

Others
FARMINGTON VALLEY 3, NORTH HAVEN 1
THURSDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULT
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FAIRFIELD 69, IONA 52
FRIDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS
MEN'S BASKETBALL
CENTRAL 67, ST. FRANCIS-BROOKLYN 55
QUINNIPAC 77, NIAGARA 68
BRYANT 85, SACRED HEART 82
Eastern Holiday Invitational (Willi-mantic)
EASTERN 86, BOWDOIN 84
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
SPRINGFIELD 82, EASTERN 54
SACRED HEART 80, BRYANT 61
Babson Classic (Babson Park, Mass.)
WESLEYAN 74, ENDICOTT 66
SATURDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Central at Rutgers, 5p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Union at Eastern, 4p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Merrimack at Yale, 4p.m.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Quinnipiac at Wisconsin, 2p.m.

SUNDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Columbia at Yale, noon
Stony Brook at Hartford, 2p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Yale at Columbia, 1p.m.
Hartford at Stony Brook, 2p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

UConn at Harvard, 7p.m.
WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Quinnipiac at Wisconsin, 2p.m.
UNE at Wesleyan, 4p.m.

AHL

Standings	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Atlantic	26	16	7	2	1	35	.673
Springfield	25	14	7	2	2	32	.640
Hartford	26	14	9	2	1	31	.596
Hershey	24	12	8	3	1	28	.583
Providence	27	14	11	2	0	30	.556
Charlotte	24	12	9	1	2	21	.438
W-B/Scranton	24	9	12	1	2	21	.438
Lehigh Valley	24	7	11	4	2	20	.417
Bridgeport	30	10	16	1	3	24	.400
North	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Utica	21	18	1	2	0	38	.905
Rochester	24	16	8	0	0	32	.667
Toronto	22	11	9	1	1	24	.545
Laval	24	12	10	2	0	26	.542
Cleveland	24	10	8	3	3	26	.542
Belleville	23	11	12	0	0	22	.478
Syracuse	21	8	10	2	1	19	.452
Central	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Chicago	26	20	4	1	1	42	.808
Manitoba	25	15	9	1	0	31	.620
Iowa	25	11	10	2	2	26	.520
Rockford	24	11	11	1	1	24	.500
Milwaukee	27	12	13	2	0	26	.481
Grand Rapids	23	9	10	3	1	22	.478
Texas	23	8	11	3	1	20	.435
Pacific	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Stockton	24	18	3	2	1	39	.813
Ontario	22	14	5	2	1	31	.705
Henderson	22	12	7	2	1	27	.614
Tucson	21	10	9	2	0	22	.524
Abbotsford	22	10	9	2	1	23	.523
Colorado	28	12	11	3	2	29	.518
Bakersfield	20	8	8	1	3	20	.500
San Jose	25	11	13	1	0	23	.460
San Diego	22	9	12	1	0	19	.432

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT

TORONTO 5, BELLEVILLE 2
FRIDAY'S RESULTS
PROVIDENCE 4, HARTFORD 0
COLORADO 3, IOWA 2 (SO)
SAN JOSE 4, STOCKTON 0
LEHIGH VALLEY AT UTICA, LATE
MILWAUKEE AT GRAND RAPIDS, LATE
HENDERSON AT ONTARIO, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Rochester at Springfield, 2:30p.m.
Belleville at Toronto, 3p.m.
Bridgeport at Lehigh Valley, 6p.m.
Grand Rapids at Milwaukee, 7p.m.
Bakersfield at Henderson, 8p.m.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Big East basketball standings
MEN'S
Team CONF CPCT OVR PCT
Providence 2-0 1.000 12-1 .923
Creighton 1-0 1.000 9-3 .750
Butler 1-0 1.000 8-4 .667
Xavier 1-1 .500 11-2 .846
UConn 1-1 .500 10-3 .769
Villanova 1-1 .500 8-4 .667
St. John's 0-0 .000 8-3 .727
Georgetown 0-0 .000 6-5 .545
DePaul 0-1 .000 9-2 .818
Seton Hall 0-1 .000 9-2 .818
Marquette 0-2 .000 8-5 .615
SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE
Creighton at Marquette, noon
Villanova at Seton Hall, 2p.m.
Providence at DePaul, 2p.m.

WOMEN'S	Team	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
DePaul	3-0	1.000	11-3	.786	
Creighton	3-0	1.000	8-3	.727	
UConn	1-0	1.000	6-3	.667	
Marquette	2-1	.667	9-3	.750	
Villanova	1-1	.500	6-4	.600	
St. John's	1-1	.500	5-7	.417	
Villanova	1-2	.000	7-5	.583	
Providence	1-2	.333	6-6	.500	
Xavier	1-2	.000	6-6	.500	
Seton Hall	1-3	.333	6-6	.500	
Butler	0-3	.000	1-11	.083	

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT

BROWN 75, ST. JOHN'S 72
FRIDAY'S RESULTS
VILLANOVA 76, SETON HALL 73
CREIGHTON AT BUTLER, CANCELED
SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE
St. John's at Villanova, noon
Creighton at Xavier, 2p.m.

HOCKEY EAST

Standings	Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPCT	S
MEN'S	UMass Lowell	16	10	3-3	11	8-2-1	25
UMass	15	9-4-2	11	7-2-2	24		
Northeastern	18	13-4-1	11	7-3-1	23		
Providence	21	14-7-0	11	6-5-0	19		
Boston College	16	8-5-3	10	5-3-2	19		
Boston University	18	6-9-3	13	5-3-3	17		
UConn	14	8-6-0	9	5-4-0	14		
Merrimack	16	6-9-1	10	3-7-0	12		
New Hampshire	17	7-9-1	11	3-7-1	9		
Vermont	16	3-11-2	10	2-6-2	8		
Maine	17	2-11-4	11	1-8-2	7		

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT

Ledyard Bank Classic (Hanover, N.H.)
DARTMOUTH 3, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1
FRIDAY'S RESULTS
BOSTON UNIVERSITY 5, BROWN 1
Ledyard Bank Classic (Hanover, N.H.)
NEW HAMPSHIRE 7, MERCYHURST 1
BOSTON COLLEGE VS. DARTMOUTH, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE
Merrimack at Yale, 4p.m.

WOMEN'S	Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPCT	S
Northeastern	19	16-2-1	14	11-2-1	35		
Boston University	18	9-6-3	15	8-4-3	27		
UConn	20	14-4-2	13	8-3-2	25		
Boston College	18	10-8-0	13	8-5-0	21		
Vermont	18	9-7-2	11	6-4-1	19		
Providence	17	7-5-5	10	4-4-2	16		
Maine	19	6-12-1	12	4-7-1	16		
New Hampshire	19	6-11-2	13	4-8-1	15		
Merrimack	20	5-14-1	15	4-10-1	15		
Holy Cross	17	3-14-0	12	1-11-0	3		

FRIDAY'S RESULT

PROVIDENCE 3, VERMONT 1
SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE
Battle in the 'Burgh (Cranberry Town-ship, Pa.)
Syracuse vs. Boston University, 4p.m.

ECAC HOCKEY

Standings	Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPCT	S
MEN'S	Cornell	11	9-1-1	8	6-1-1	18	
Quinnipiac	18	14-1-3	6	5-0-1	17		
Harvard	11	6-4-1	8	5-2-1	17		
Clarkson	19	9-6-4	8	4-2-2	16		
Rensselaer	19	8-9-2	8	4-4-0	12		
St. Lawrence	15	4-7-4	8	3-3-2	12		
Brown	12	3-9-0	9	3-6-0	10		
Colgate	18	8-10-0	8	3-5-0	9		
Union	17	5-9-3	8	3-4-1	8		
Princeton	13	3-9-1	6	2-4-0	7		
Dartmouth	10	2-8-0	7	2-5-0	7		
Yale	10	3-7-0	8	2-6-0	5		

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT

Ledyard Bank Classic (Hanover, N.H.)
DARTMOUTH 3, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1
FRIDAY'S RESULTS
BOSTON UNIVERSITY 5, BROWN 1
NEBRASKA-OMAHA AT ST. LAWRENCE, LATE
Ledyard Bank Classic (Hanover, N.H.)
DARTMOUTH VS. BOSTON COLLEGE, LATE

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Roasting a duck isn't much harder than preparing a chicken, and it makes for a festive holiday meal.
RYAN LIEBE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A perfectly imperfect whole duck recipe

By Melissa Clark
The New York Times

Cooking duck at home is a classic example of when my quest for perfection undermines the “tasty enough.”

For years, I strove to create the idealized vision of roast duck that I held in my head. It had to have crackling, burnished skin as crisp as a potato chip, and ruby-hued breast meat as rare as steak and dripping with schmaltz-glossed juices.

The best way to come close to this was through a technique I learned from Ariane Daguin, founder of D’Artagnan, a gourmet food purveyor specializing in duck.

First, I’d roast the duck until the breast was a rosy 130 degrees. Then, I’d pull the steaming bird out of the pan and hold it by the drumsticks to lop off its legs, which

returned to the oven to finish cooking while the breast rested.

The technique is brilliant. But it’s not the kind of greasy maneuver I necessarily want to undertake when company is over. After a cocktail, wrestling a hot, slippery 5-pound waterfowl in a silk blouse does not make for low-stress entertaining.

Roasting a duck like a chicken, however, is a straightforward affair. And by incorporating a few tweaks, it can result in a bird that is easy to cook and thoroughly delicious — without any unctuous threats lurking.

One thing that differentiates roasting a duck from roasting a chicken is the duck’s prodigious layer of fat. This fat needs to render in the oven so it can baste the duck flesh and crisp the skin. There are two classic ways to help this along: pricking the

skin or scoring it.

I’ve found that combining the two works extremely well, giving the fat even more opportunities to escape.

Daguin advises scoring the skin in a tight, crosshatch pattern so you get ¼-inch squares.

“The little squares get very crisp,” she said, “and the smaller they are, the nicer they taste.”

Another tip, Daguin said, is to take a cue from the Chinese method of making Peking duck and douse the skin with boiling water. This tightens the pores, making the skin easier to cut.

Once roasted, the bird emerges with the skin golden, the meat tender and the fat melted and just waiting to meet any potatoes — a holiday meal both cook and company can rejoice in.

Crisp roast duck

- Makes:** 4 servings
Total time: 2 ½ hours, plus at least 4 hours’ resting
- 1 (5- to 6-pound) whole duck
 - 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon kosher salt (Diamond Crystal)
 - 2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
 - 2 large garlic cloves, finely grated, passed through a garlic press or finely minced
 - 1 tablespoon chopped thyme or rosemary leaves, or a combination, plus more sprigs for the cavity
 - 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon or orange zest, or a combination
 - 1 ½ teaspoons ground coriander or a spice mix, such as garam masala or baharat (optional)
- 1. Bring** a full kettle or medium pot of water to a boil (at least 2 quarts).
- 2. Meanwhile,** remove giblets and neck from the duck cavity and reserve for another use. Trim any excess fat from around the duck cavity and the neck. Place duck, breast-side up, on a rack in the sink. Pour half of the boiling water all over the top of the duck to tighten the skin. Flip the bird and pour remaining boiling water over the back.
- 3. Once the duck** is cool enough to handle, using the tip of a very sharp paring knife, prick duck skin all over to help release the fat, especially where the skin is thickest, and be careful not to pierce the meat. It can be helpful to hold the knife nearly parallel to the bird. After piercing the skin, use the knife blade to score the duck breast in a crosshatch pattern (making deep cuts into the skin only, and not into the breast meat). Flip the bird and score the back as well (you don’t need to prick the back). You may need to sharpen your knife along the way, as it’s much easier to make clean cuts into the skin with a sharp knife. Using a clean kitchen towel or paper towels, thoroughly pat duck dry, including inside the cavity.
- 4. Season** the duck all over, including cavity, with salt and pepper. In a small bowl, combine garlic, chopped herbs, citrus zest and coriander, if using, and make a paste. Rub garlic paste all over duck, inside and out. Place duck, breast-side up, on rack in a roasting pan, stuff cavity with herb sprigs and refrigerate, uncovered, for at least 4 hours and up to 24 hours.
- 5. When it’s time** to cook the bird, heat the oven to 450 degrees. Roast for 30 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and carefully prick the duck skin all over the top of the bird using a sharp paring knife. (You don’t need to prick the back of the duck.) Reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees and continue roasting until skin is golden brown and crispy, and the internal temperature at thickest part of the thigh reads 165 degrees on an instant-read thermometer, about 1 hour to 1 hour, 45 minutes longer. Using tongs, gently tip duck to drain any liquid from the cavity. Transfer bird to cutting board to rest for at least 10 minutes. Carve and serve.

Delicious muffins make the most of cinnamon

By Kelli Foster
TheKitchn.com

If you're someone who loves all things cinnamon, these muffins were made for you. They bake up soft and fluffy, and pack in not one, not two but three doses of cinnamon. You'll find it mixed into the batter, as a cinnamon-sugar blanket over the top, and a cinnamon and brown sugar ripple through the center of the muffin.

Best of all, they're easy to make, and there's a good chance you already have everything you need to make them. Ready to get baking?

What's the secret to fluffy muffins?

There are a couple of simple tips that will ensure a batch of fluffy muffins every time. First, you'll need a leavener, like baking powder or baking soda, to make the muffins rise and give them that beautiful domed top we all crave. This recipe relies on a couple teaspoons of baking powder, and to get the full effect, you'll want to make sure it's not expired. (There's an easy way to test it if you're not sure.)

Second, be sure not to overmix the batter. As a rule of thumb with any muffin recipe, mix the batter just until combined and no visible streaks of flour remain.

Cinnamon muffin add-in suggestions

With a brown sugar and cinnamon ripple through the center, plus a sprinkle on top, these muffins are amazing as is, but if you're

Cinnamon muffins

Makes: 12 muffins
Paper muffin liners or cooking spray
1 cup packed light brown sugar, divided
4 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided
1 cup whole or 2% milk
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon kosher salt
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
½ cup canola oil
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a standard 12-well muffin pan with paper liners or coat the wells with cooking spray.

2. Place ¼ packed cup of the light brown sugar and 2 teaspoons of the ground cinnamon in a small bowl and stir to combine, breaking up any lumps of sugar.

3. Place 2 cups all-purpose flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, the remaining 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon, ½ teaspoon kosher salt and ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg in a large bowl and whisk to combine.

4. Place 1 cup whole or 2% milk, the remaining ¾ packed cup light brown sugar, ½ cup canola oil, 2 large eggs and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract in a medium bowl and whisk until well-combined and no lumps of sugar remain.

5. Pour the milk mixture into the flour mixture and stir until just incorporated and no dry spots remain.

6. Divide the half batter between the muffin wells, about 2 tablespoons of batter per well. Sprinkle 1 teaspoon of the cinnamon sugar evenly over each muffin. Divide the remaining batter between the muffin wells. Sprinkle each muffin with the remaining cinnamon sugar, about 1 scant teaspoon per muffin.

7. Bake until the muffins are golden-brown and a toothpick inserted into the center of a muffin comes out clean, 18 to 20 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes before removing the muffins from the pan.

in the mood for something a little extra, try one of these add-ins.

- Chocolate chips: ½ cup regular or mini
- Toasted nuts: ½ cup
- 1 peeled and diced tart apple, like Granny Smith
- 1 peeled and diced pear

How to store cinnamon muffins

Cinnamon muffins keep

quite well when stored properly. If you plan to eat them within several days, store the muffins in an airtight container at room temperature for up to five days. Alternatively, they'll keep in the freezer for up to three months when stored in an airtight container. Then just thaw at room temperature when you're ready to eat.



These leftover-friendly cinnamon muffins are the perfect on-the-go breakfast.
KELLI FOSTER/THEKITCHN.COM



The creme fraiche adds some tang. MICHAEL GRAYDON AND NIKOLE HERRIOTT/EATINGWELL

Two-tone mashed potatoes create a beautiful side dish

By Lia Huber | EatingWell

In this recipe, Yukon Gold potatoes and sweet potatoes are roughly mashed together with leeks for a beautiful mottled white-and-orange take on mashed potatoes. The creme fraiche topping offers a tangy counterpoint.

Two-toned mashed potatoes

Makes: 12 servings
Active time: 20 minutes
Total time: 35 minutes
1 tablespoon buttermilk plus ¾ cup, divided
2 tablespoons creme fraiche or sour cream
½ teaspoon onion powder or granulated onion
Pinch of salt plus ¾ teaspoon, divided
1 ½ pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into 1-inch chunks
1 ½ pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
1 small leek, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced, white and light green parts only
2 tablespoons butter, cut into 4 pieces
¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
2 tablespoons minced fresh chives

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil.

2. Combine 1 tablespoon buttermilk, the

creme fraiche (or sour cream), onion powder (or granulated onion) and a pinch of salt. Cover and refrigerate while you cook the vegetables.

3. Add potatoes, sweet potatoes and leek to the boiling water and return to a boil. Reduce heat to maintain a vigorous simmer and cook until tender enough to pierce with a knife, 12 to 15 minutes. Drain and return the vegetables to the pan (off the heat).

4. Add the remaining ¾ cup buttermilk, the remaining ¾ teaspoon salt, butter and pepper to the pan; coarsely mash with a potato masher. Serve topped with the sauce and chives.

Note: Prepare sauce (Step 2) and vegetables (Steps 1 and 3), cover and refrigerate separately for up to one day. Reheat vegetables, covered, in the microwave or a double boiler before continuing with Step 4.

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

Enhance grilled steak with tomato compound butter

By Diane Rossen
Worthington
Tribune Content Agency

No matter what time of year it is, I am always up for a grilled steak. If it's too cold outdoors, you can use a seasoned iron skillet on high heat for a successful result. For years, I used seasoned compound butters to add loads of flavor to many dishes. What is a compound butter? It is merely a mixture of butter and other ingredients.

Here, I have adapted a recipe from Discover California that enhances simple steak with a garlicky sun-dried tomato compound butter. You can make up the butter a few days ahead and freeze it until you are ready to use it. Make sure to defrost it to chilled before using.

The robust tomato-garlic notes are equally enjoyable on grilled chicken, fish, vegetables, corn on the cob, baked potatoes, and atop soft corn polenta. A simple arugula salad makes a colorful and tasty accompaniment. To drink? A full-bodied merlot or malbec would be a lovely



Compound butter will add another layer of flavor.
DISCOVER CALIFORNIA/TNS

complement to the meat.

A few tips on choosing your steak:

Choose your meat from a known purveyor. If you feel like you want to splurge, go for USDA Prime beef. Otherwise choose the best quality USDA Choice steak. Remember that the higher the ratio of marbling and the younger the beef, the higher the grade of meat. If you want aged beef, there is wet- and dry-aged beef. Wet-aged beef is lighter and extremely tender and has a grassy flavor, while dry-aged beef is richer and has almost an earthy mushroom flavor. Selecting your cut of steak is a personal choice. My preference is a rib-eye because it usually has good marbling, which creates a juicy steak.

Grilled steak with sun-dried tomato compound butter

Makes: 4 servings
4 boneless steaks, rib-eye, sirloin or New York, 10 to 12 ounces each
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
3 large garlic cloves, peeled and ends removed
½ cup marinated in oil sun-dried tomatoes
3 ounces unsalted butter, at room temperature
½ teaspoon smoked paprika
¾ teaspoon salt
Extra sun-dried tomato pieces, for garnish
Fresh basil sprigs, optional for garnish

1. Season steaks all over with salt and pepper. Place the steaks on a rack set over a plate or tray and refrigerate, uncovered, for 6 to 12 hours. Bring to room temperature before grilling.

2. In a small food processor mince the garlic until pureed. Add the tomatoes, butter, smoked paprika and salt and puree until smooth.

3. Scoop the butter out of the bowl into the center of a 12-inch piece of waxed paper or plastic wrap. Roll up plastic wrap, pressing the butter into a log shape. Twist the ends to close. Place in freezer for 6 hours or the refrigerator for at least 4 hours until firm. If frozen, allow it to thaw in the fridge until well-chilled.

4. Prepare a grill or a grill plate on the stove for medium-high grilling. Grill to desired doneness, about 3 to 5 minutes per side for medium rare. Transfer the steaks to a platter.

5. Unroll the wax paper and slice the butter into ¾-inch pieces. Top each steak with a few slices. Scatter a few sun-dried tomato pieces on top and garnish with and an optional basil sprig. Serve immediately.

M&M cookies

Eric Kim chased the gooey, crackly texture of these treats and offers a simple formula.

Makes: About 16 cookies
Total time: 30 minutes
½ cup unsalted butter, very soft
1 cup granulated sugar
¼ packed cup dark brown sugar
1 large egg, at room temperature
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon kosher salt (Diamond Crystal) or ¾ teaspoon coarse kosher salt
¼ teaspoon baking soda
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
½ cup M & M's
1. Heat the oven to 350 degrees and line 2 large sheet pans with parchment.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together butter, sugars, egg, vanilla and salt by hand until smooth and fluffy, at least 1 minute. Whisk in baking soda, then switch to a rubber spatula. Add flour, then carefully and coarsely chop the M & M's and add them, too. Gently stir to combine. Place the bowl in the refrigerator while you wait for the oven to finish heating.
3. Using two spoons or a cookie scoop, plop out 2-tablespoon rounds spaced a couple of inches apart on the sheet pans. (You should get about 8 cookies per pan.) Bake until lightly golden at the edges, 10 to 12 minutes. Let cool completely on the sheet pan; they will continue to cook as they sit.

Iced oatmeal cookies

Jerrelle Guy makes a pantry cookie extra craggy so that icing strikingly coats the tops of these chewy-centered treats.

Makes: 15 cookies
Total time: 35 minutes, plus cooling
1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
1 cup all-purpose flour
¼ teaspoon kosher salt
½ cup granulated sugar
¼ packed cup light brown sugar
1 large egg, at room temperature
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon or pumpkin pie spice
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
½ teaspoon baking soda
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
¾ cup powdered sugar
5 teaspoons whole or oat milk, plus more as needed
1. Heat the oven to 350 degrees and line a large baking sheet with parchment.
2. In a bowl, combine the oats, flour and salt. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat both sugars with the egg, cinnamon, vanilla and baking soda on high speed, scraping the bowl as needed, until glossy, pale and thick, a full 2 minutes. Reduce the speed to medium. Very slowly drizzle in the melted butter and whisk until thoroughly incorporated. Add the oat mixture and gently fold by hand using a wooden spoon or rubber spatula just until incorporated, being careful not to overmix.
3. Using a small cookie scoop or two spoons, drop 15 golf ball-size mounds of dough onto the sheet pan, spacing them at least 2 inches apart. Bake until the edges and surface are set and lightly golden brown, but the center is still gooey, 12 to 14 minutes. Remove from the oven and immediately rap the baking sheet on the counter or stovetop a couple of times to help the cookies flatten a little more, and cool on the sheet for 5 minutes.
4. In a small bowl, mix the powdered sugar and milk using a fork until the icing is completely smooth and very thick but still moves if you tilt the bowl. Add more milk in small increments as needed. Dip only the very tops of the cookies into the bowl of icing, leaving the deeper cracks in the cookies uncoated and allowing any excess icing to drip back into the bowl. Flip the cookies over and return them to the baking sheet to allow the icing to harden, 10 to 15 minutes. The iced cookies will keep in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 1 week.

Spiced orange crumble cookies

Reminiscent of mulled wine, this tartlike cookie from Yewande Komolafe uses clove-spiced dough as a nutty base and crumbly topping.

Makes: 16 cookies
Total time: 1 hour 15 minutes
½ cup cold unsalted butter, cut into ½-inch cubes, plus more at room temperature for brushing the pan
1 ⅓ cups all-purpose flour
¾ cup almond flour
¾ cup packed dark brown sugar
1 teaspoon kosher salt (Diamond Crystal)
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
¼ cup heavy cream
6 tablespoons orange marmalade
1 whole orange
Powdered sugar, for dusting
1. Position a rack in the middle of the oven and heat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 9-inch springform pan.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, almond flour, brown sugar, salt, cloves and black pepper. Rub the butter into the flour mixture using your fingers until small pebbles form. (Alternatively, use a food processor to pulse the dry ingredients with the butter.) Pour the cream over the mixture, stir just until combined and squeeze until the dough forms ¾-inch clumps. Transfer a little less than half of the crumble (1 ½ loosely packed cups) to a small bowl and refrigerate.
3. Transfer remaining dough to the buttered pan and flatten into an even layer by pressing into the bottom of the pan with a glass. Bake on the middle rack until the edges are golden brown and begin to pull away from the sides of the pan, about 22 to 25 minutes. Cool in the pan for at least 10 minutes. If you tap the surface of the cookie, it should sound hollow.
4. Spread the orange marmalade in an even layer over the surface. Sprinkle the reserved crumble over the top. Return to the oven and bake until the top is golden brown, about 35 minutes. Zest the orange directly over the top while the crumble is still warm. Cool completely in the pan, then run a knife along the edges of the crumble before releasing the sides. Dust with powdered sugar, cut into wedges and serve.



Beloved M&M cookies are gooey goodness.



Iced oatmeal cookies are a chewy treat. ANNA WILLIAMS/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

Cookie JOY

Treats for any mood and craving

The New York Times

What’s more comforting than a cookie? It’s been a long couple of uncertain years, and a homemade cookie is a surefire win. Whether you’ve been feeling hope and happiness, or a white-noise melancholy, you’ll find that these treats from New York Times Cooking recipe creators meet any mood and craving, and they all have one thing in common: They deliver joy. Once you get baking, you’ll be rewarded with a kitchen that smells like the holidays — and so many good things to share and eat. — *Genevieve Ko*



Spiced orange crumble cookies use clove-spiced dough as a nutty base and crumbly topping.



These peanut butter cookies feel like eating peanut butter out of a jar.



Fig and cherry cookie pies are similar to cucidati, Italian fig cookies.

Peanut butter cookies

Loaded with peanut butter chips, these cookies from Genevieve Ko feel like eating peanut butter out of a jar.

Yield: About 50 cookies
Total time: 45 minutes
½ cup all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
¾ teaspoon fine sea salt
½ cup unsalted butter, softened
½ cup granulated sugar
½ packed cup brown sugar
1 cup natural salted peanut butter (see note), at room temperature
1 large egg
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
1 cup peanut butter chips
½ cup lightly salted roasted peanuts (optional)
1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Whisk flour, baking powder and salt in a small bowl. In a large bowl, using a wooden spoon or spatula, smash and mix butter and both sugars together until smooth and creamy. Add peanut butter and stir until incorporated. Add egg and vanilla, and stir until well combined. Add flour all at once and fold gently until dry bits disappear, then fold in the peanut butter chips and peanuts, if using, until evenly dispersed.
3. Using a small cookie scoop or a measuring tablespoon, drop rounds of dough on a prepared sheet, spacing 1 ½ inches apart. Bake until just dry on top and set along the edges, 10 to 11 minutes. Do not overbake. Scoop and drop dough onto the second sheet while the first bakes, then slide into the oven when the first comes out.
4. Place the baking sheets on racks to cool completely. The cookies will keep in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 1 week or in the freezer for up to 2 months.
Note: Look for peanut butter with only roasted peanuts and salt in the ingredient list, and be sure to stir well if the oil is separated. Chunky or creamy is a deeply held personal preference, so choose your favorite.

Fig and cherry cookie pies

Similar to cucidati, Italian fig cookies, these melt-in-your-mouth pies from Samantha Seneviratne are stuffed with a tender dried-fruit filling.

Makes: About 2 ½ dozen cookies
Total time: 2 hours, plus chilling
For the pastry:
3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
¾ cup powdered sugar
¾ teaspoon kosher salt (Diamond Crystal)
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, cut into cubes
3 large egg yolks
5 tablespoons heavy cream, plus more as needed
For the filling:
½ cup loosely packed chopped dried figs, hard stems removed (about 6 dried figs)
½ cup dried sweetened sour cherries or cranberries, chopped
¼ cup raw or roasted almonds
3 tablespoons dark brown sugar
2 tablespoons dark rum
1 tablespoon freshly grated orange zest (from 1 orange)
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon kosher salt (Diamond Crystal)
For the glaze:
1 cup powdered sugar, sifted
½ teaspoon almond extract
3 to 4 tablespoons heavy cream
Sprinkles
1. Prepare the pastry: Combine the flour, powdered sugar and salt in the bowl of a food processor. Add the butter and pulse until the mixture resembles a coarse meal. Add the egg yolks and cream, and pulse just until the dough starts to come together. Add more cream if necessary, but stop before the dough is too wet. Tip the dough out onto a piece of plastic wrap and form it into a ball, divide in two and wrap each half in plastic wrap. Chill for at least 2 hours.
2. Meanwhile, prepare the filling: In a small saucepan, combine the figs, cherries and 1 ¼ cups water, and bring to a low simmer over medium heat. Cook until the figs are very soft, about 15 minutes, adding a little more water as necessary to make a moist paste. Transfer to the bowl of a food processor and add the almonds, brown sugar, rum, orange zest, cinnamon and salt, and pulse until you have a relatively smooth paste. (You should have about 1 ¼ cups filling.) Let cool completely.
3. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Working with 1 ball at a time, roll the dough out to ⅛-inch thickness on a very lightly floured surface. Use a 2 ¼-inch cookie cutter to cut out circles. Transfer the circles to the prepared baking sheet. Scoop about a scant tablespoon of filling onto half of the dough circles. Brush the edges of the filled circles with a bit of cream and top with another dough circle, gently pressing the edges to seal. Repeat with the remaining dough and filling. (If the dough becomes too soft, pop it into the fridge to firm up before continuing.) You can reroll and cut the dough scraps one time.
4. Chill the pies for 10 minutes. Use a fork to crimp all of the edges. (If you'd like to neaten the edges, you can go over the cookies again with the cookie cutter.) Refrigerate the cookies for at least 30 more minutes. While the cookies chill, heat the oven to 350 degrees.
5. Brush the top of each cookie with cream. Bake until they're golden and crisp, 25 to 30 minutes, rotating the sheets halfway through. Transfer cookies to a rack to cool completely.
6. Prepare the glaze: In a small bowl, whisk together the sugar, almond extract and 3 tablespoons cream. The icing should be spreadable. If it isn't, stir in another tablespoon cream. Spread a bit of the glaze on each cookie and top with sprinkles. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days or freeze for a month.
Note: You can make the pastry, wrap it well and refrigerate it up to 3 days before you use it, or you can freeze it for up to 1 month. The filling can be made up to 3 days ahead as well. Some say the filling tastes even better after a short rest, but it isn't essential.